



ESTABLISHED 1859.

CHIEF OFFICE: 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCH OFFICES: FINK'S BUILDINGS, MELBOURNE, VIC., AND
EMPIRE CHAMBERS, YORK STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

A weekly journal, supplied from the chief office in London to subscribers and persons connected with the trade only. Subscription, 10s. per year, payable in advance, including a copy of the DIARY next published, and postage to any country in the world. Single copies, 4d. each. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "EDWARD HALSE," and crossed "MARTIN'S BANK (LIMITED)."

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MERCHANT SHIPPERS' ISSUE.

THE issue of THE CHEMIST & DRUGGIST for March 10 will be circulated to all those in the United Kingdom who are accustomed to execute indents for drugs, chemicals, druggists' sundries, perfumery and other druggists' goods. It will be an exceptionally profitable issue to advertise in, and those who require space should write to the publisher.

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1894.

THIS work is now out of print, and we can no longer supply extra copies. As we are still receiving daily applications for the DIARY this announcement has become necessary.

POST-CARD COMPETITION.

FEBRUARY, 1894.

MR. BLANK, chemist, Dulltown, has decided to advertise his liver pills in the local newspapers.

He has engaged a space 3 inches deep by 2 inches broad. He makes these pills from a private formula (which we do not know), but he does not know yet exactly what to call them, nor what price to charge for them, nor whether to stamp them. He has an open mind on these points. But he wants an effective advertisement drawn up for the space indicated.

Subscribers, their assistants, or members of their families are requested to send in suggestions. At least 12. 1s. will be given as a prize. Replies must be on post-cards, and post-cards may be sent in up to the end of February.

A guinea for $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 50,000 per cent.

Summary.

WE chronicle an unusual number of robberies from chemists' shops.

THE United Alkali Company have adopted the eight hours day in their works.

THE charge against Cornelius B. Harness and his colleagues has been dismissed.

WE give the names of those who passed the Preliminary examination last month.

IN the *Tit-Bits* Christmas window-competition a number of chemists have participated (see page 173).

A NUMBER of correspondents send us letters in regard to the occasional toxic effects of antipyrin even in small doses.

"EMOLLIOLOLUM" was registered as a trade-mark, but it has now been ordered by Mr. Justice Stirling to be removed.

A CHEMIST at Spalding has been fined 5*l.* and costs for selling arsenic to a farm servant who poisoned three horses with it.

THIRTY SHILLINGS is a big price to pay for a 2-oz. bottle of vascline, but a woman at Portobello, who stole a bottle, has to pay it.

THE Edinburgh Chemists' Trade Association consider the sale by grocers of liquid blue containing oxalic acid to deserve attention.

WE give a fuller report of the case of poisoning with vermin-killer in the South of London, wherein the sale was made by an oilman.

THE list of synthetic remedies in actual use has crept up to 63, this including some articles which are not synthetic and others which are not remedies.

THE Belfast Branch of the Chemist and Druggist Association has held its annual meeting, at which it was resolved to continue the work of the Association.

MR. J. J. SMITH in his inaugural address as president of the Liverpool Chemists' Association discussed the desirability of medical men giving up dispensing.

A CHEMIST's assistant, who was annoyed at finding himself in the employment of a company-chemist, has sued the latter for damages, and has failed in his suit.

PROFESSOR LEECH, addressing Owens College Chemical Society, emphasised the pharmacological necessity for research regarding the constitution of alkaloids.

QUININE has advanced considerably in price owing to the discovery that the stocks in London are lower than was thought. The market is excited in consequence.

THE Clerkenwell County Court Judge has held that combs, sponges, and some other druggists' sundries are not necessities. A Highgate chemist accordingly loses a 5*l.* note.

DR. NEVINS, a Liverpool practitioner, has given the Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society some interesting reminiscences of fifty years of pharmacy. We print the doctor's paper along with his portrait.

THE Chemists' Assistants' Association have discussed voluntary and compulsory codes of ethics, the former dealing with the highest aspirations of advanced pharmacists, and the latter with low practices in pharmacy.

JUDGE O'CONNOR MORRIS, sitting at the Sligo Quarter Sessions, has reversed the decision of the Borough Magistrate in regard to the methylated tinctures. The chemist who had them in his back shop has been nominally fined.

AT the evening meeting of the North British Branch, Mr. D. B. Dott submitted new characters and tests for chloroform, providing for a lower and safer specific gravity than is at present recognised. In another paper he advocated that 20° C. should be the official temperature for taking specific gravities. To the same meeting Dr. Gordon Sharp communicated a paper in which he maintained that peptones are not produced during papain-digestion.

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English News.

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

The Sale of Poisons by a Grocer at Battersea.

We have received a special report of the inquest mentioned in our English News last week, the evidence in which Mr. Braxton Hicks, the Mid-Surrey Coroner, said he should report to the Pharmaceutical Society.

It having appeared from the husband's evidence that the Battle's Vermin-killer, which had caused the death of the deceased, had been purchased on November 9,

Mr. William James Green, associate of the Pharmaceutical Society, of 355 Wandsworth Road, produced his poisons sale-book, and stated that on November 9 there were several packets of Battle's Vermin-killer sold. Messrs. Walter purchased several packets. On the 10th, Mr. Ansell, one of the employes, bought a sixpenny packet, and on the 16th Miss Walter purchased a shilling packet. Witness had no idea that Messrs. Walter were supplying grocers with the poison, or he should have required them to purchase it first-hand.

Dr. Edward H. McLaughlin, L.R.C.P., of 63 New Road, Battersea, stated that death was due to the action of the strychnine contained in the rat poison. The vermin-killer was composed of 23 per cent. or 26 per cent. of strychnine and Prussian blue. The deceased's stomach was stained a blueish colour.

Mr. William Walter said he was a member of the firm of H. Walter & Son, wholesale oilmen and tallow-chandlers, of 377 and 379 Wandsworth Road. The bill produced, including the item, "One packet of Battle's Vermin-killer," was made out by his son. The order for it was taken from Mr. or Mrs. Hutchison on November 9, and executed on the 10th. Witness obtained the vermin-killer at Mr. Green's. He sent Ansell for it. He was now aware for the first time that it contained strychnine; but he knew it was a poison, and was obtainable only at a chemist's. Mr. Hutchison said he was a stranger to the neighbourhood, and asked witness to obtain it for him. He used to keep it in stock, but had not done so since the passing of the Act.

The Coroner: Well, Mr. Walter, I am afraid you have got yourself within the four corners of the Pharmacy Act.

The Witness: Yes, I am half afraid that I have.

The Coroner: This was clearly an improper sale of poison, and I shall report the matter to the Pharmaceutical Society.

The Witness: I was afraid there would be a prosecution directly I heard of the death.

The Coroner: No doubt there will be.

The jury returned an open verdict—that there was no evidence to show with what intent the poison was taken.

A Marvellous Corn-cure.

At the Southampton Police Court on January 22, Henry Reed, an "eloquent" middle-aged man, who described himself as a chiropodist, was summoned for having acted as a pedlar, on Saturday night, at Eastleigh, without having a licence. It appeared that the defendant was selling a "marvellous" cure for corns, which he described as an "infallible" remedy for such excrescences. The defendant said he did not think he required any licence to hawk goods of his own manufacture, and as this was the first time he had been in trouble he hoped the Bench would overlook the offence, and he would at once take out the necessary licence. After the defendant had been admonished by the Bench he was discharged.

Suicide of a Dispenser.

An inquest was held at Swindon, on Monday, January 22, on the body of Mr. Adam W. Boyd, aged 41 years, a dispenser, at the Great Western Railway Medical Fund Surgery, Swindon, who was found dead in bed on the previous Saturday. According to the evidence of Mr. Ernest Daniel Crook, dispenser, deceased was very despondent owing to the recent death of his wife, and to financial difficulties. When they

parted on Friday, deceased wished him good-bye. On Saturday afternoon he was called to deceased's house, where he found him lying in bed quite dead. Near him was a glass and a small bottle labelled hydrocyanic acid.

Mr. W. Williams, chemist, New Swindon, said he supplied the drugs to the surgery. On Friday deceased came to the shop for the acid, saying he wanted to make tincture of chloroform and morphia according to the "British Pharmacopoeia." He signed the book in the usual way, and witness believed his story, as he had supplied him with drugs for the past four years.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane. Deceased was very popular in the town, and was greatly esteemed.

Mr. Stanley on Medicines for Travellers.

In the course of a lecture on African exploration, which Mr. H. M. Stanley gave in Lambeth last week, he said:—"When I think of the dreadful mortality that occurred in Captain Tuckey's expedition in 1816, in the Niger expedition of 1841, at Sierra Leone and on the Gold Coast, of the sufferings of Burton and Speke, and of my first two expeditions, I am amazed to find that much of the mortality and sickness was due to the crude way in which medicine was supplied to travellers. Formerly we had to take the raw quinine by the teaspoonful, and the calomel, jalap, and rhubarb in heaps on the small end of the spoon. This caused such an excessive nausea that the remedy began to be feared more than the fever. In some instances the medicines provoked such convulsive efforts that the eyeballs of the patients were cracked, and bloodvessels were burst. The very recollection of them causes me a shudder. Now, however, every traveller conveys his medicine in the form of elegant tabloids, pleasantly coated and easily soluble, so that the action is immediate without the slightest nausea."

Sad Death of a Dispenser.

On Tuesday morning of last week, James Wallace, aged 66, said to be a dispensing chemist, but not on the register, died at his home, 44 Beaumont Street, Bristol. The previous Friday he was brought home suffering from the effects of a fall, and Dr. W. G. Grace was called in to attend him. Dr. Grace found him suffering from a bronchial cold aggravated by shock, but apprehended no immediate danger. Wallace, however, died as stated. The medical opinion given at the inquest was that death was due to bronchitis accelerated by shock following a fall, acting on a constitution enfeebled by alcohol. A verdict to that effect was returned.

Carbolic-acid Poisonings.

Maurice Harrigan, aged 67, lived at Finsbury Park, and had been 43 years in the service of the Great Northern Railway Company. He made a mistake in regard to some hay, and was, in consequence, reduced from the position of a foreman to that of a porter. He had suffered from influenza, bronchitis, and insomnia; so he took carbolic acid, and died.

Mary Black, of Newcastle, whose husband had been taken to the asylum, became very despondent, took carbolic acid and died. The Coroner commented upon the frequency of this sort of poisoning, and said the sale of the article wanted regulating like other poisons. It was quite time that an Act was passed placing upon the means of securing it the greatest possible restriction. The jury concurred with these remarks.

John Gibson (58), Lord Churston's head gardener at Churston Ferrers, Devonshire, who had been in low spirits and had no rest for two weeks, took carbolic acid, and died from it on Monday last.

Dinners and Dances.

The Thirteenth Junior Pharmacy Ball is fixed for Wednesday, February 14, at the Portman Rooms. Mr. H. Arliss Robinson, of 29 Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, is the honorary secretary, and tickets are 7s. 6d. each.

The Blackpool chemists dined together last week at Mr. Sedgewick's Central Branch. Mr. Sedgewick presided. Amongst the toasts were "The Town and Trade of Blackpool," by Mr. Carter, responded to by Mr. Jackson; "The Chemists' Dinner," by Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Turver; "The

Pharmaceutical Society," Mr. Richardson and Mr. Laurie. Mr. O. Jackson proposed "The Visitors," and Mr. J. H. Taylor responded. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Withers to Mr. and Mrs. Sedgewick, congratulating them on the success of the dinner.

The employés and friends of the "Edwards' Harlene" Company held their annual dinner and dance on January 29. The dinner was held at the works of the company, 95 High Holborn, which were specially decorated for the occasion. Mr. Edwards, the proprietor, occupied the chair, and Mr. T. H. Brown, the advertising contractor, was vice-chairman. The company numbered about thirty. In the course of a short speech Mr. Edwards gave an interesting account of the strides the firm had made during 1893, eclipsing those of any advertised speciality of the same description. The dancing was kept up till after midnight.

Robberies from Chemists' Shops.

The chemist's shop of William Henry Blunt, Snow Hill, was entered one night last week by thieves, who left behind traces sufficient to indicate that the work was that of professional housebreakers. The shop is a lock-up one, and entrance was gained from a yard at the back. The window of the laboratory was first smashed, but iron bars deterred further efforts in this direction. The men clambered on to the roof, broke the skylight, but there again iron bars interposed. A small window was gained by climbing up the water-spout, but for a third time there were iron bars. Returning to the roof the men removed the slates, made a hole through the ceiling, and got inside the premises. They were poorly paid for their trouble, for, after overhauling the whole place, they had to content themselves with about 5s. which was in the till.

The East London police are making inquiries with a view to bringing to justice the perpetrator of a daring robbery committed a few evenings ago at the Vicarage Lane Post Office, Stratford, a chemist's shop, kept by Mr. H. Latten, who is also the postmaster. It appears that the thief entered the shop, evidently having watched his opportunity, when the place was left unattended for only about two minutes. He secured from a low shelf in the post-office a cashbox, containing in bank notes, &c., considerably over 70l., and decamped. Next morning the empty cashbox was found in a new road leading out of Vicarage Road into Romford Road.

At the Borough Police Court, Reading, on Monday, Sydney Lambourne, a boy, living in London Road, was charged with stealing a bottle of scent from the shop of Mr. Cardwell, pharmaceutical chemist, Reading. Mr. Hooper, prosecutor's assistant, said he was in a room above the shop on Saturday evening, and hearing a bell ring he went to the shop and saw prisoner. Suspecting him witness looked round the shop and missed a bottle of lavender-water, valued at 3s., from a case on the corner of the counter. On accusing the lad of taking it he first denied having done so, but subsequently admitted it. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and elected to be dealt with summarily. The boy's mother and the Rev. J. P. Farler, spoke of the prisoner's previous irreproachable character. The mother was bound over in the sum of 5l. to bring him up for judgment if called upon.

At York Police Court, on Monday, Thomas Hill, an errand-boy, 17 years of age, was charged with stealing 24l. from the shop of Mr. L. J. Thompson, chemist, York, on November 13. The boy absconded with the money from the till. He returned to York on Sunday night, and his father took him to the police station. In answer to the Lord Mayor the prisoner said he used to bet small sums on horses while in York. He took the money and went to Newcastle, where he stayed some time, and afterwards went to Hull, where he stayed until the money was all spent. He had spent the money in buying clothes, betting on horses, and going to the theatre. The prisoner was sent to York Castle for six weeks with hard labour.

The Fertilisers and Feeding-stuffs Act.

Dr. Bernard Dyer has been appointed district-analyst under this Act by the Hertfordshire County Council, at a fee of one guinea for each sample analysed, half to be paid by the county and the other half by the submitter of the sample.

Fire at a Drug-manufacturer's.

A fire occurred on the premises of Mr. Thos. Hill Jones, drug-manufacturer, Eagle Wharf Road, Hoxton, last week.

An Analyst's Charges.

At the monthly meeting of the Heaton Norris Local Board, on Thursday of last week, Alderman Forrest complained of the charges made by the county analyst for analysing samples of water, and said it was a shame that a local authority like that Board should be compelled to pay 2l. 12s. for simply analysing water. The county analyst was a highly-paid official, and he proposed that the Clerk write to the County Council, calling attention to the excessive charges made by him. This was seconded by Mr. Ward, and carried.

An Analyst's Report Referred Back.

At the quarterly meeting of the Herts County Council the report of the public analyst, Mr. Ekins, was received. It appeared from it that he had analysed 41 samples of food and drugs, of which 5 were adulterated. Mr. A. L. Stride expressed regret at not finding any reference in the report to the prosecution in October last of the International Tea Company for selling vinegar certified by the county analyst to be adulterated with 60 per cent. of pyroligneous acid. Contrary evidence was given by several analysts of repute, and by the chemists at Somerset House. The prosecution was thereupon dismissed, and the county was very properly mulcted in costs. He was not going to say that men did not make mistakes, but the decision had given rise to a great deal of dissatisfaction. The county analyst should have some opportunity of explaining. He therefore moved that the report be referred back to the county analyst, with a request to him to give some explanation on this particular case. Mr. Tomlinson seconded the motion, which after some discussion was adopted.

The "Tit Bits" Shop-window Prize.

In November the proprietors of *Tit Bits* offered a prize of 100l. to the shopkeeper showing the best-dressed window during the week before Christmas, ending December 23, and a silver medal to each of the twelve next best windows. Competitors were to send to *Tit Bits* photographs of their dressed windows, and from these the prize-winner would be adjudged. The Editor of *Tit Bits* informs us that the first prize has been taken by Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove, the drapers of Oxford Street, and that a reproduction of the photograph showing their shop window will appear in *The Million* of February 17 next.

Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove, we understand, have decided to give, out of their 100l. prize, 30l. to each of the following charities:—The Linen and Woollen Drapers' Institution; the Warehousemen, Clerks, and Drapers' Schools; and the London General Porters' Benevolent Association.

A CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST representative had a chat with Mr. Peter Fraser, the editor of *Tit Bits*, at the beautiful offices of that journal in Wellington Street, Strand, the other day.

"I am sorry to have to tell you," said Mr. Fraser, "that there is not a single pharmacist among our medallists; but I find that there are a goodly number of them, from all parts of the country, among the unsuccessful competitors."

"How many replies have you had?"

"Rather over six hundred, which I consider a very good result. You must remember the competition involved not only the dressing of the window, but also the photographing of the show. That over six hundred shopkeepers should have taken that trouble speaks well for the interest taken in our offer."

"You awarded the prize from the photographs?"

"Just so; not altogether a satisfactory way, perhaps, but the best we could adopt. Of course, pretty effects of colour, a very important factor in the problem, went for nothing in the competition."

In response to a request the Editor expressed his willingness to allow us to reproduce the photographs of chemists' shop-windows sent in if we obtain the consent of the competitors. We have the matter in hand.

Eight Hours and Chemical-works.

With a view to the general adoption of the eight-hour day, as recommended by the Chemical Committee, the United Alkali Company have forwarded to the managers of the Widnes, Runcorn, and other district works orders to place the workmen engaged in specific departments on shifts of eight hours. The new system is to commence at once.

The Local Supply of Drugs.

At a meeting of the Kingston Board of Guardians last week, Dr. Donald, medical officer to the workhouse, reported that he required more drugs, a list of which he handed to the Clerk. Capt. McLauchlin asked if the drugs could not be tendered for by chemists in the district. In reply to the Clerk, Dr. Donald said if the Board got the drugs in the district they would certainly have to pay more for them, and would probably not get them as good. The matter then dropped.

The Harness Case.

After a protracted hearing, which has extended over several weeks, the prosecution against Cornelius B. Harness and three of his colleagues for defrauding people by the sale of electropathic belts came to an end on Wednesday. Mr. Hannay, the Bow Street Magistrate, did not find sufficient evidence to justify the prisoners being sent for trial. In the course of his remarks accompanying this decision Mr. Hannay said he should not have allowed the case to go on for such a long period had it not been that there was a great deal in the conduct of the business which no honest man could approve. He could well believe that there were points in the conduct of the business which the management were most unwilling to have exposed to the full light of day. But to make a case indictable there must not only be knowledge, but a guilty knowledge. These people at Oxford Street received numerous testimonials from persons who said they were benefited by the treatment they received, and in the face of that how was it possible to ask a jury to say that they knew all the time that these things were valueless when they were receiving constant testimonials as to their value? It was remarkable that, although they daily saw advertisements of quack medicines to cure all sorts of diseases, yet no action had been taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions against the persons who issued such advertisements. He thought, if he saw his way clear to get a conviction, the Public Prosecutor would have undoubtedly intervened in such cases.

Poison for Whisky.

An inquiry was held at Birmingham on January 26 into the circumstances attending the death of a manufacturer named Gill, whose business was on the point of being converted into a company. On Thursday evening Mr. Gill remained at his office late, after everybody else had left, and he was found dead, sitting upon a stool, with an unfinished letter on the desk before him. It appeared that he had intended drinking a glass of whisky, but had by mistake taken a bottle containing cyanide of potassium, and had drunk a large quantity. A verdict of death by misadventure was returned.

Alleged Obstruction by a Chemist.

Mr. C. R. Sharman, chemist, of 2 New Road, Gravesend, was summoned to the Gravesend Police Court, on January 26, for causing an obstruction in Princes Street, on January 12. P.C. Wickens stated that he saw some boxes and baskets in the gutter. Mr. Sharman said the collective area covered by the baskets was less than 4 square feet. The Mayor elicited the fact that the officer did not speak to Mr. Sharman at all, and commented thereon. The case was dismissed.

Horse-poisoning in Lincolnshire.

At Spalding Police Court on Tuesday, Ernest Webster, farm-servant, was fined 5*l.* for administering arsenic to the horses of his employer, Mr. Thomas Atkinson, a farmer, whereby three agricultural cart-mares, worth 165*l.*, were killed. Henry Atkin Gibson, chemist, of Spalding, who supplied the arsenic, was fined 5*l.* and costs for selling the poison to the farm-servant, the latter not being known to him or properly introduced. In the defence it was sought

to be set up that the farm-servant was a customer, but he himself said he had only been in the shop once previously, and that twelve months before. The Bench held this to constitute an unknown person in the meaning of the Act, and refused an application to state a case on a point of law.

Not a Registrable Qualification.

At the Greenwich Police Court on Tuesday, Charles H. Thomas, of 478 New Cross Road, was summoned by Mr. Saw, superintendent registrar for the Greenwich district, for making a false certificate for the purposes of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1874. Mr. Saw said the defendant attended a child as the assistant to another medical man, and signed the death-certificate, "Qualification, as registered by Medical Council, L.R.C.P." As a matter of fact, the defendant was not registered, nor was he entitled to be registered. Prior to June, 1887, he might have been registered, but since that date a double qualification in medicine and surgery was required before registration. He produced a certified copy of a page of the Medical Register, showing that the defendant's name did not appear. The defendant admitted that he put his qualification on the certificate, and that he was not registered.

Mr. Kennedy: What should he have put?

Mr. Saw: He had no right to sign the certificate at all. He is not registered, and he cannot be registered.

Defendant: I thought I could do so, having the L.R.C.P. I find now that I had no right to do so.

Mr. Saw said that there were gentlemen holding good medical appointments with only the same qualification as the defendant possessed, but since 1887 a double qualification was necessary. He would, under the circumstances, only ask for a nominal penalty. Mr. Kennedy fined the defendant 20*s.* and 2*s.* costs.

Irish News.

The Chemist and Druggist Association (Northern Branch).

The annual business meeting was held on January 25 at 8 P.M., at the Central Hall, Belfast. There was a good attendance of members and associates. Mr. Wm. Doig was called upon to preside. The treasurer submitted the financial report, which showed a small balance to the credit of the Association. The report was adopted. The Chairman in the course of his remarks congratulated the members on the good work accomplished by the Association in the past. They had now to consider the future of the Society. The Association had accomplished its principal objects and had obtained redress of several of the grievances which called it into existence. A general discussion arose as to whether it should be dissolved or its basis extended so as to deal with trade matters, and to promote mutual improvement. Several members expressed their views. Numerous grievances not yet redressed by the Pharmaceutical Council were discussed, some of which were considered to deserve immediate attention. The meeting was unanimously in favour of continuing the Society and expending its basis so as to include a scientific section. A sub-committee consisting of Mr. Samuel McDowell, Mr. A. Roberts Hogg, Mr. P. Richardson, and Mr. S. Gibson, was appointed to arrange a Mutual Improvement Section. Mr. A. R. Hogg has consented to deliver the first lecture, which will be on animal and vegetable substances. On the motion of Mr. J. H. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Jacob Walsh, Mr. Samuel Gibson, member of the Pharmaceutical Council, was requested to bring before the Council at their first meeting and press for immediate redress the following questions:

(1) Larger Representation on Council; (2) Representative on Law Committee; (3) The protection of widows of registered druggists; (4) qualification as pharmaceutical chemists by examination without the two years' apprenticeship; (5) Exemption from jury service.

The hope was expressed that the Council would approach the subject of their grievances in that spirit in which the Association desired to bring it before it.

On the motion of Mr. Doig, seconded by Mr. Rankin, the

Chairman was instructed to convey to Sir James Haslett the deep sympathy of the Association with him in his sad bereavement, the death of Lady Haslett. Lady Haslett, it was stated, at all times displayed deep interest in the Association, and had frequently presided at one of the tables at the Association's *conversazine*.

Scotch News.

The Bromide-of-Potassium Case.

A settlement has been arrived at in the action mentioned in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* recently in which W. R. Fairlie, iron and metal merchant, Glasgow, sought to have F. R. Hughes, chemical-manufacturer, Bo'ness, ordained to deliver 2 tons unfinished bromide of potassium which, he said, formed part of the stock of the Bo'ness Chemical-works he had purchased from the defendant, or pay £224. The defendant stated that the lot in question consisted of less than 3 cwt. of bromide crystals and less than 500 gallons of bromide in solution, and that it was not included in the subjects sold to the plaintiff. The plaintiff has accepted in settlement the bromide mentioned by the defendant and expenses to date of tender.

A Narrow Escape.

Mr. McGlashan, druggist, Alyth, with his wife and a lady relative living with them, had a narrow escape from being poisoned with gas early on Monday morning. The gas, supposed to have escaped from the main, had found its way into the house in considerable volume, and so affected the inmates that the two ladies were rendered unconscious, while it was with difficulty that Mr. McGlashan was able to put on his clothes, and go for assistance. This obtained, the ladies were got into a purer atmosphere, and soon recovered.

Deaths from Poisoning in Scotland in 1891.

The Registrar-General for Scotland has just issued his report for 1891. We find in it that the poisons which caused death accidentally in that year were:—Opium, or one of its alkaloids or preparations, 27; helladonna, 2; aconite, 1; chloroform, 3; strychnia, 1; lead, 1; carbolic acid, 5; alcohol, 4; phosphorus, 3; creosote, 1; arsenic, 2; sulphuric acid, 3; hydrochloric acid, 4; ammonia, 1; sucking matches, 1; Epsom salts (overdose), 1; eating mussels, 1; coal-gas, 3; other noxious gases not particularised, 3. Suicides by poison were apportioned thus:—Opium, 13; strychnia, 2; arsenic, 1; sulphuric acid, 2; carbolic acid, 2; not stated, 4.

Robbery from a Chemist's.

At Portohello Police Court on Tuesday a young woman, who pleaded guilty to having stolen a 2-oz. bottle of vaseline from a chemist's shop, was fined 30s. with the option of seven days' imprisonment.

Fire at a Chemist's Shop.

The new shop at 144 Princes Street, Edinburgh, recently opened by Messrs. H. C. Baildon & Son, chemists, as a West-end business, was considerably damaged on Monday evening by a fire in the adjoining building, occupied by the Prison Commissioners for Scotland. The fire was prevented from spreading beyond the premises in which it broke out, although masses of burning material falling upon the roof of Messrs. Baildon's shop endangered it considerably, the risk being at one time so threatening that it was deemed advisable to remove the business and prescription books. The damage was caused by water, which flowed in large volume into the shop, destroying the ceiling, damaging the elegant new fittings, and flooding the basement. The amount of damage has not yet been ascertained.

Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association.

A meeting of this Association was held on Tuesday evening in the Pharmaceutical Society's house, Edinburgh, Mr. G. H. Laird in the chair. Eleven chemists were nominated for membership, and five nominated at the previous meeting were elected. With reference to the

proposed action anent the amendment of the Stamp Act the committee reported that they considered it inadvisable to do anything further in the meantime, pending the effect of the proposed action by the British Medical Association. The report was agreed to. The committee appointed at the previous meeting to ascertain the extent to which soluble blue containing oxalic acid is sold by grocers and others in the city and district reported that its sale was general, that no poison-label was attached to the packets or bottles, and that in one instance 5 lbs. of oxalic acid was used per month by one grocer in the manufacture of blue for wholesale and retail purposes. The committee considered that the retail sale of soluble blue containing oxalic acid by grocers is illegal, and involves danger to the public, and that attention should, therefore, be drawn to the matter. It was stated that the analysis of a 6-oz. bottle resulted:—Oxalic acid, 7.09 grs. = 0.27 per cent.; Prussian blue, 30.33 grs. = 1.15 per cent.; and water, 6 fl. oz. After some discussion the report was adopted, and it was remitted to the chairman and secretary to carry into effect the recommendation of the committee to have attention drawn to the matter. The meeting then discussed the proposals of the Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association regarding the amendment of the Stamp Act. In regard to the first of these it was considered unlikely that the Board of Inland Revenue would be influenced by the Association as to the methods adopted for carrying out the Act. The second, fourth, and fifth proposals were agreed to unanimously; while, in reference to the third, it was considered that all official and officinal preparations from published formulæ or of well-known composition should be exempt from the operation of the Act where particulars of their uses and doses were given on the label. This was all the business of importance.

French Pharmaceutical News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

EXPLOSION AT A CHEMICAL-WORKS.—On Saturday evening, January 27, an explosion took place at Saint Fons, near Lyons, in the chemical-works owned by MM. Durand & Huguenin, while a preparation of nitro-benzine was being heated in a bath of oil. The roof of the building fell in, the walls tottered, and the windows of neighbouring buildings were broken. A fire subsequently broke out, which, being fed by an enormous quantity of oil, spread rapidly.

A PHARMACEUTICAL DINNER.—A few evenings ago a party of eminent pharmacists were entertained at a dinner at the Café Riche, Paris, on the occasion of M. G. Ferné obtaining his diploma as pharmacien. This gentleman is well known in the Paris drug-trade as managing director of the Paris branch of MM. Demarchi, Parodi & Co., of Buenos Ayres, one of the largest houses in the South American chemical and drug trades. The dinner was presided over by Dr. L. Portes, chief pharmacist of the St. Louis Hospital, and a past president of the Paris Society of Pharmacy. Among the guests were Professor Behal, Dr. Viron, Dr. Grimbert and Dr. Lafay.

THE CONSTITUTION OF CHEMICAL BODIES.—Important researches have been made by MM. Georges Darzens and Albert Colson, which M. Berthelot described at a meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences on Monday last. MM. Darzens and Colson measure the heat thrown out by polyatomic and organic bases with acids. In the first place they studied ethylene diamine. Continuing their experiments they applied their method to quinine, which alkaloid they find to be formed of two bodies, of which one nearly resembles quinoline and the other piperidine. These results seem to agree with those obtained by other chemists, such as M. Grimaux in this country and Herr Skraup in Germany. The quinine salt obtained by the first-named chemist was described in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* of February 13 last. This may be a further step towards the synthesis of quinine.

"FIFTY YEARS OF PHARMACY."

DR. J. BIRKBECK NEVINS delivered a lecture thus entitled to the Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society on January 25.

In his opening remarks the lecturer said that the term covered by his experience ought to be more correctly described as fifty-nine years of pharmacy, as it was that time since he was apprenticed to an apothecary in Leeds. During that period astonishing discoveries had been made, which had revolutionised the practice of pharmacy. Quinine, iodine, bromine, chloroform, and many other things were unknown entirely, and the art of medicine was conducted on much simpler lines when he commenced his career than now.

One of the striking features that he noticed was the change which had taken place in the nomenclature of various preparations. The names of persons who invented a compound were freely used when he was an apprentice; for instance, when Jenner introduced a new and improved form of tartar emetic his name was for a long time associated with it. No one spoke of liq. plumbi acet., but always of Goulard's extract of lead. Dover's powder was used instead of pulv. ipecac. co. Gregory's powder was a case of evolution. Magnesia was discovered in 1755, and had been used for many years as a specific for various things, especially as a fashionable remedy for gout. When one of the Georges had rhubarb prescribed as a stomachic, and it became a fashionable remedy also, Dr. Gregory hit upon the idea of combining the magnesia and the rhubarb with a



little ginger, giving his name to the compound, which has come down to this day, with more or less pleasant associations for us all.

Speaking of the use of rhubarb, Dr. Nevins said that the fact of its appearing in a royal prescription had large influence with those who wished to be considered in the fashion, and it was almost impossible to buttonhole anyone in those days who had any claim to social position without the inevitable appearance of the piece of rhubarb from the waistcoat-pocket, to be chewed with apparent enjoyment. Liquor arsenicalis never appeared in prescriptions—always Fowler's solution, as the impression seemed to prevail among medical men that their patients might be alarmed if they found arsenic entering into the composition of their medicines. Spirit of Mindererus was always ordered for spirit of hartshorn, and it was universally believed that the inspiring influence of the remedy was due to the lively and energetic character of the deer itself, and not to the chemical composition. He had the opinion that the old process with rass. cornu cervi produced an article which was different from the new, and was in many respects

superior, as the empyreumatic oil from the horn contained elements which are entirely wanting when the article is prepared as now directed. All this is changed now, and very few medical men would think of giving their name to any compound or prescription, the tendency being to employ the scientific name of the article. Prescriptions in those days were more complex than now, and the lecturer believed that there is a growing tendency to rely upon one or two ingredients.

The apothecary's apprentice fifty years ago knew what hard manual labour was. There were not so many wholesale houses with every necessary appliance, and no small steam-engine to do unpleasant tasks. Aloes had to be powdered by hand slowly and laboriously in a mortar, and hyd. c. creta, pil. hydrarg., and ung. hydrarg. were all made at home. For testing the finished condition of the mercurial preparations a little of the article was spread on the finger, and then examined with a lens. If there were no uncombined globules of mercury the preparation was finished. He was afraid, however, that the apprentice frequently put the lens, like Nelson when he did not want to see signals, to a blind eye, and thus secured a shortening of his task. Capsicum, too, had to be powdered. It was a sovereign remedy for headache, but he thought the relief secured by the patients scarcely compensated for the sufferings of the unhappy apprentices.

Though the dispensing chemist of those days had printed labels, it was *infra dig.* for a medical man to use these. His labels, familiar pieces of folded paper, were always attached to the neck of the bottle. It was customary to send as many bottles as possible to a patient, as eight bottles paid better than one or two. Effervescing draughts were in great favour, and it was the custom to send about eight bottles at once to a patient, one to be taken every three hours. The spare time of the apprentice used to be devoted a good deal to the preparation of these draughts. As there were no soda-water machines a simple process was adopted. A suitable 1½-oz. bottle was nearly filled with a solution of soda bicarb., a small crystal of citric acid was dropped in, and then the bottle was quickly corked, and in a short time the draught was ready—if the bottle were strong enough. Another means of employing spare time was in the manufacture of enema apparatus. No india-rubber tubing and bulbs were to be had then, no ingenious contrivances were invented for the injection of fluids. The apprentice had to procure a supply of calves' bladders, tie a pipe securely into the neck, and otherwise prepare them for use, and then one would be sent out with each clyster.

Every summer the apprentice had to collect the herbs likely to be required, chiefly digitalis. Belladonna was not generally found wild in those days, and seemed only to be found in the neighbourhood of the old monastery gardens. The lecturer lingered over this part of his reminiscences as if he were conscious that the modern student lost much through want of more intimate familiarity with what he had to use.

Plasters had to be made and spread, and much time and trouble were devoted to the production of an elegant article. Ladies' plasters were generally made heart-shaped as a matter of sentiment.

Bleeding, as everyone knows, was very common—far too common—but Dr. Nevins remembered one instance where it was used for an extraordinary purpose and with success. A patient of his master's had been troubled with a most obstinate constipation—so obstinate, indeed, that his life was in serious danger. After every usual remedy had been tried, and the case seemed hopeless, his master despatched him to see the patient once more with the injunction, "If he is not better, bleed him!" On reaching the man Dr. Nevins found him still without relief, so he followed the instructions given to him, and bled the man to fainting-point. The desired effect was produced—the man broke into a profuse perspiration and recovered. The philosophy of this treatment was rather hard to discover at first, said Dr. Nevins, but it had a basis of good reasoning, as every medical man would at once recognise.

Pills were rolled by the fingers, and coated pills were unknown. It was a subject of remark in those days that a medico might be known at a dinner-table by the way in which he fingered his bread.

When he was a youth there was a very good rule in con-

nection with the making of tr. cardam. co. for ensuring a perfect article. It was: "Don't eat the raisins." He believed the same advice was given to-day.

In the early part of the century medical men were largely herbalists, and there was nothing discreditable in that—provided you did not call yourself one. Galenical practitioner was the correct term. At the same time many were subject to the influence of Paracelsus, who introduced minerals into medicine. As the century has advanced the followers of this school have increased in importance.

To illustrate the difficulties which existed when no alkaloids were available, the lecturer said that when a patient had to be operated upon for cataract in the eye it was necessary to smear ext. bellad. over the eye and surrounding parts for twenty-four hours before the operation, in order that the necessary dilation of the eye might take place. In this connection the doctor remembered seeing, years before it came into use, a hypodermic syringe by Wood, of Liverpool; but it was practically valueless, as morphia and atropia had not been discovered.

Among the new remedial agents introduced during his time the doctor referred to phosphorus, which he had brought by the grain as a boy. With regard to the introduction of iodine he said that it was interesting to note that spongia ustum was once used for goitre, and on the source of its power being looked for by a French physician, he found that it was due to iodine, and this article at once displaced the old remedy.

The processes for getting the iodine at the first were very crude, and he remembered that his chemistry master, Mr. West, used to add considerably to his income by making iodine from kelp in his own laboratory. Bromine was looked askance at for a long time, even in the form of bromides, and, in conjunction with the iodides, was only prescribed at first in extreme cases and in small doses.

Quinine when first brought out was very expensive, and was prescribed in 1-grain doses for a long time. The other extreme was then taken, and 5-grain doses became fashionable among many doctors. It is a matter of congratulation that a mean has now been established. Creosote came out, like many other things, as a "cure for everything," and was at first sold at 10s. 6d. per oz.

The doctor remembered the early attempts at the production of anæsthetics; nitrous-oxide gas was supplied in a bladder. But these were mere playthings—the man and the time had not then arrived for the production of chloroform.

During his career he had seen many animal preparations laughed down. Castorum used to be considered a splendid nerve-tonic, but it gradually declined in favour. He noted with interest, however, that it again appeared to be coming forward, if he were to judge by the demand at present. Musk, in the form of pills, was also once a grand remedy for gout in fashionable society, but it seems to have been now relegated to perfumes. White snails used to be used as a jelly in the morning by the *élite*, but are quite out of date. He believed they are still in the French Codex.

In conclusion the lecturer made some amusing allusions to the old beliefs affecting medicine, such as astrology and the black arts. Particular attention was drawn to Culpepper's horoscope, and to the supposed influence of the stars upon herbs and animals. Of course, he said, we are now superior to all this, and can afford to smile at the credulity of our forefathers; history repeats itself in many things, and seemed to be doing so in medicine, if we may judge by some modern speculations. Learned men of to-day are talking of the malign influences of the black spots in the sun on the world, and attributing droughts, plagues, and what not to them; so there may have been some elements of truth in the old teaching about celestial influences. And when we see extracts of the thyroid gland, brain, and testicles of rabbits, as well as cockroach and rattlesnakes, employed by leading men in medicine we begin to doubt whether the scoffs against those who used dried toads, vipers, and dogs' livers were fully justified.

The lecture was listened to with the greatest interest, for Dr. Nevins has always been immensely popular among the pharmacists of Liverpool, and his quaint way of telling his reminiscences was heartily relished by his audience.

We have the pleasure to illustrate this report with a portrait of the veteran lecturer.

PHARMACOLOGY: ITS RELATION TO CHEMISTRY

PROFESSOR D. J. LEECH, M.D., F.R.C.P., professor of pharmacology at Owens College, Manchester, last week delivered a lecture before the members of the Chemical Society of Owens College on the relation of pharmacology to chemistry. He pointed out that though in former times the word "pharmacology" had been considered co-extensive in meaning with *materia medica*, and included pharmacognosy and pharmacy as well as the effects and uses of drugs, it had now a more limited definition. The progress of research had led to a division of labour different from that which had formerly obtained. It was found that the action of drugs and remedial agents on the tissues and organs in health and disease formed a department of work apart from dealing with the cure of disease (therapeutics) on the one hand, and distinct from that which concerns the origin and aspect of drugs and the preparation and dispensing of medicines on the other (*materia medica* and pharmacy). To this department the name "pharmacology" was now given, although the word is still occasionally used in the more general sense. Certain chemical substances seem to have an affinity for particular tissues and organs, the functions of which they alter. All substances act more or less on other tissues besides those they chiefly affect; some act powerfully on several organs. The lecturer gave a series of illustrations of the means by which the pharmacologist estimates the influence of drugs on the organs and tissues. He further explained that it can be shown that the effect of a chemical compound is the outcome of the elements or groups of elements of which it is composed, and that we can, to a considerable extent, judge what its action will be if we know the ordinary pharmacological effects of the elements or groups of which it is made up, and also the manner in which they are put together. We can at times modify the effects of a chemical compound in a definite direction by introducing into it another small molecule having a known influence. This is well seen in the case of urethane and chloralamide when an atom of NH_2 , which tends to stimulate the breathing and heart-centres, has been added to a group of molecules which tend to cause sleep, for the purpose of overcoming their depressing influence on the heart and respiration, which they at the same time exert. The work of a pharmacologist is to find out the action of the various groups, large and small; but to do this he must track them out through a large series of combinations, for the production of which he is dependent on the chemist. Construction, as well as composition, plays an important part in the effect of the larger molecules, and until the chemist teaches us the exact manner in which such large molecules—*e.g.* morphia and strychnine, are built up, and the pharmacologist has obtained a wider knowledge of the powers of smaller molecules under varying conditions, we shall not be able to understand the effects of the modifications which can be produced in these larger molecules. At present we do not comprehend why substituting a molecule of methyl for one of hydrogen in morphia weakens its sleep-producing and pain-quelling power, whilst the subtraction of a molecule of H_2O takes both away and converts it into a powerful emetic. Nor do we know why, when we substitute a molecule of methyl for hydrogen in conine, we convert it from a substance which paralyses the nerve-endings into one that paralyses the spinal cord. With further help from the chemist this knowledge may be obtained, and we may be enabled to construct new remedies more useful than those we have. In another way, too, the pharmacologist must rely on the chemist for help. Within the body compounds are broken up and new ones formed, the latter being really the effective agent in altering function. Before we are able to understand thoroughly the pharmacological effects of chemical compounds we require the chemist's aid to teach us the manner in which they are capable of being broken up under various conditions. The pharmacologist must always be the debtor of the chemist—by their joint exertions they might make mankind a debtor to both for new means of prolonging life and decreasing suffering.

Legal Reports.

METHYLATED SPIRIT IN MEDICINE.

AT the Sligo Quarter Sessions on January 26, County Court Judge O'Connor Morris and Mr. Henn, R.M., heard an appeal by the Inland Revenue authorities against the decision of the Sligo Borough Magistrates, who had dismissed summonses against Mr. Henry Rogers, chemist, Sligo, for having sold medicines capable of being used as a beverage, or internally as a medicine, contrary to the Act of 1880. Mr. O'Sullivan, supervisor, Sligo, was the nominal appellant. The Crown Solicitor (Mr. Fenton) appeared for the appellant, and Mr. Hynes, B.L., for the respondent.

Mr. J. Burge, F.I.C., analyst in the Inland Revenue Department, deposed to visiting Mr. Rogers's premises and finding a stock-bottle in the veterinary department, labelled "Benzoin co., Veterinary Pharmacopœia. Caution: For external use only." The bottle contained about a pint of liquid, which witness found was made with methylated spirit. Mr. Jones, a colleague, also found a bottle labelled "Tinctura opii aquos., Veterinary Pharmacopœia. Poison." In reply to a question, Mr. Rogers told him he got the prescription from a veterinary surgeon, and thought it was safe to use methylated spirit if the bottle was marked "For external use only," for veterinary purposes or for cattle-medicine. Mr. Rogers further said he did not use methylated spirit in the medicines in the front shop (or general medicine department). Samples of the contents of the two bottles were sent for analysis. Methylated spirit was capable of being used internally when made up as in the present cases, and he had known it used as a beverage.

In cross-examination, witness said the difference between tincture of opium made with rectified spirit and that made with methylated spirit was a question of palate. There would be no different effect on the system as far as he was aware. He found tinctures of benzoin and opium in the front shop made up with rectified spirit.

Mr. Charles Proctor, analyst, deposed that both the tinctures in question were made with methylated spirit.

In addressing the Court for the defence, Mr. Hynes remarked that they were charged with an offence punishable with a penalty of 200*l*. He contended that the Act only applied to beverages, and that it was for the purpose of preventing methylated spirit being used as such that the Act was passed. The word medicine only occurred once in the Act, and the interpretation he put upon it was that it was intended to prevent people saying they took the spirit as a medicine. What was the meaning of "capable of being used internally"? Did it mean physically capable? If they took it so, anyone who had French polish in his house was guilty under this Act. It was said that there was a saving clause in the Act about French polish, but that only referred to a French-polisher. If anyone purchased a pint of French polish, there was nothing in the Act to save him, seeing that the polish was a liquid, and capable of being used internally. In this case the mixture was not intended for human use.

The Judge: But the Act excludes intent.

Mr. A. C. Hamilton, V.S., swore that the medicine was made up from prescriptions given by him. It was for veterinary purposes.

The Judge said the Court was tied up by the law, and could not entertain the question of intent. If Mr. Hynes would produce medical evidence they would hear it. The Court was rather of opinion there was no defence; but they thought the case was a most trivial one. If the evidence of a physician was given showing that methylated spirit was seldom used in human economy it would be a very important point in the defendant's favour.

Dr. McDowell, who was in court, was then questioned by the Judge: As a matter of fact, are you aware that methylated spirit is a very exceptional ingredient in human medicine?—Most exceptional.

The ordinary thing would be rectified spirit?—No respectable chemist in the position of Mr. Rogers would attempt to give medicine made up with methylated spirit.

At this stage of the case a consultation took place, with

the result that a compromise was arrived at. It was agreed by the Excise authorities to withdraw one appeal on Mr. Rogers pleading guilty in one of the cases. No costs to be allowed.

The Judge then said they would fine Mr. Rogers, but recommended that the fine be reduced to 1*l*.

"EMOLLIOLOREM" IS A DESCRIPTIVE WORD.

AN application to remove from the register of trade-marks the mark No. 58,922, registered for Mr. Talbot, chemist, Salisbury, came before Mr. Justice Stirling, on January 11. The applicants were Vanner & Prest, oil-merchants, Old Kent Road, who in June, 1876, registered a mark "Molliscorium" for a preparation for softening leather goods. In November, 1886, the respondent registered the word "Emolliolorem" for a preparation to make leather goods waterproof, and the applicants submitted that this was a descriptive word, and as such was not entitled to be on the register. Counsel for the respondent contended that to the average Englishman the word was as little descriptive as the word "Cockalorum." His Lordship took time to consider the case, and on January 24 he delivered judgment, holding that the word complained of was merely a descriptive word and not a fit subject for registration. The mark will accordingly be expunged.

COUNTY COURT CASES.

Giving Credit to Married Women.

LAST week, at the Clerkenwell County Court, before Judge Meadows-White, Milton Hersant, of 7 Whitehall Parade, Archway Road, sued Jose Estevez, of 15 Langdon Road, for 6*l*. 5*s*. 11*d*., goods supplied. One pound was paid into court, and defendant denied liability.

The plaintiff said the claim was for medicine and other articles supplied by the plaintiff to the defendant's family. Amongst the articles obtained were several bottles of blood-mixture, a comb, a bottle of "hair-restorer," sponge, carbolic acid, &c.

The defendant said he travelled on commission, and his earnings were between 300*l*. and 350*l*. a year. He paid the rates and rent of his house, which was 45*l*. a year, paid for a servant, groceries, and school-fees, and gave his wife 3*l*. 10*s*. a week to keep the house with. He had never authorised his wife to pledge his credit.

Cross-examined: In the early part of last year two of his children were ill, and he also was in the hands of the doctor. Medicine was supplied by the doctor, which he paid for, and it was not obtained by his wife from the plaintiff. He had never informed the tradesmen of the neighbourhood that his wife was not to pledge his credit. He gave his wife no direction to order the articles from the plaintiff.

The Judge held that the articles obtained were not necessities, neither were they needed in cases of emergency. He gave judgment for the defendant.

Dismissing Commercial Travellers.

LAST week in the City of London Court, before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, Mr. Frederick Butler, commercial traveller, sought to recover 10*l*. 3*s*., as a month's remuneration in lieu of notice, from the Cleansing Syndicate (Limited), fancy-soap manufacturers, of Addison Terrace, Notting Hill.

The plaintiff said he was engaged by the defendants to sell their chemical-soap preparation. He was to call upon grocers and chemists and introduce the defendants' goods, and for his services he was to be paid 2*l*. per week for expenses in getting about London and in addition 2½ per cent. commission on all orders which he brought in. He had had fifteen years' experience as a traveller, and he called on his customers and introduced the defendants' soap to them. He did what he could to get orders, but he had not been very successful during the five weeks he was in the service.

For the defence it was argued that the plaintiff was not entitled to notice, but was engaged on trial for a month. Mr. Commissioner Kerr pointed out that the plaintiff had worked for the defendants for more than a month. Mr. Graham, for the Syndicate, said that was because the defendant company changed its management during the time.

The new directors found that the plaintiff was not doing good business, and they sent him away there and then. Probably they ought to have paid him one week's money. He submitted that a traveller was not entitled to a month's notice with such an arrangement as the plaintiff had.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr said it did not matter if the plaintiff had not earned anything during the time he was with the defendants. He would still be entitled to proper notice. He must find for the plaintiff, with costs.

Business at Broad Green.

AT the Liverpool County Court last week, before his Honour Judge Collier, Samuel Moore, chemist and druggist, Broad Green, appeared on a judgment summons on his failing to comply with an order of the Court to pay 10s. a month towards a debt owing on a promissory note to the Baskerville Printing Company. In reply to questions Mr. Moore said his takings were 3*l.* a week when his Honour made the order to pay 10s. a month. They were less than that now. He could not pay the order. After some discussion his Honour said the defendant did not appear willing to pay, and he made an order for the payment of 1*l.* in a month. Defendant had had since October to pay.

A Red-oxide Case.

IN the Lord Mayor's Court last week, before the Assistant Judge (Mr. Roxburgh) and a jury, Mr. J. R. Akerman, commission-agent in dry colours, 72 Mark Lane, sued August Zumbeek & Co., chemical and colour merchants, 66 Mark Lane, to recover 16*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, being the price of 23 cwt. of red oxide, which had been sold to the defendants. The defendants had set up a counter-claim for damages that they had sustained through plaintiff not supplying red oxide in accordance with a sample that had been shown him, in consequence of which the defendants had to purchase elsewhere, and the sum of 7*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* was claimed as being the difference in the price at which plaintiff was to supply and the price at which the red oxide had been purchased. After counsel had stated the case, Mr. J. R. Akerman, the plaintiff, was called, and said he had been given a sample of red oxide to match, and was given 14*l.* as an outside limit for price. It was well known in the trade that no two mines could produce the same article except it was from the same vein of earth. The first sample he had sent in was not approved, but the order had been given on a second sample. A few days after sending the delivery-order he received a letter stating that the red oxide sent in by him was the wrong colour, and the defendants' customers were unable to use it, and the plaintiff was asked to send for this at once and deliver the proper colour. Plaintiff afterwards saw the defendants and told them that what he had delivered was the nearest thing he could do. The defendants afterwards told him that the sample they had sent to him was what was known as Cambrian red, a colour which could not be matched at less than 20*l.* per ton. The agent to the Cambrian Company confirmed this statement. He said Cambrian red was made by a patent process known as Lavender's patent. There was an inferior Cambrian red sold by the New Cambrian Company at 16*l.* per ton; but this was not red, but purple. The defence was that the defendants had given the order to the plaintiff on a sample which he said was in accordance with the sample supplied by the defendants. The oxide supplied was not in accordance with the sample, and the defendants had to purchase oxide elsewhere at a higher price. The jury found for the plaintiff for the amount claimed.

A New Risk for the Company Chemist.

AT West Bromwich County Court on January 30, before his Honour Judge Griffiths, George Holl, chemist, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, sued John Vincent Webster, trading in High Street, West Bromwich, as the New Supply Stores Company (Limited), to recover 50*l.*, damages alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff in consequence of defendant falsely and fraudulently representing to him that he (defendant) was a chemist, and by means of such representation inducing the plaintiff to give up his situation in London, to break up his home, and remove to West Bromwich for the purpose of taking a situation as assistant to the defendant. Alternatively the plaintiff claimed damages because the defendant falsely and fraudulently represented to him that the New

Supply Stores Company (Limited), of which he held himself out as the managing director, were chemists, and thereby induced the plaintiff to give up his situation, sell part of his goods, and remove to West Bromwich in order to become the assistant to the said company, whereas, in fact, neither the defendant nor any other person connected with the said New Supply Stores Company (Limited) were chemists; and he therefore claimed damages from the New Supply Stores Company, because they falsely represented to the public (including plaintiff) that they were chemists, thereby giving colour to the statements of the said John Vincent Webster, and thereby induced plaintiff to leave London to accept the situation at West Bromwich as chemist's assistant. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Parfitt defended.

Mr. Sharpe said the plaintiff was at present holding a situation at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The defendant was a vendor of medicines and drugs in High Street, West Bromwich. He had carried on business for some five or six years past under the style of the New Supply Stores Company (Limited), and, for the purposes of this case as the New Supply Stores Company (Limited). The so-called company might be a legal company, but as a fact it was all centred in Mr. Webster himself. Mr. Webster was not a chemist, and had never qualified, and as he had come into collision with the authorities from time to time—

Mr. Parfitt: Is that relevant?

Mr. Sharpe: He has come into collision with the authorities from time to time for selling poisons and certain drugs which he was not qualified to sell. Therefore he found it necessary to have upon his premises a qualified person. In February last year he advertised for a qualified chemist, and the plaintiff replied to the advertisement. A correspondence ensued, and it was in the course of this correspondence that the misrepresentation was made. His client would not have taken a situation with any person who was not qualified, as he had a strong objection to being made a cat's paw of. His client was kept in ignorance of the fact that Mr. Webster was not a qualified man.

The Judge: He could have ascertained whether he was or not easily by consulting the register.

Mr. Sharpe: He is not bound to ascertain that.

The Judge: I think he is.

Mr. Sharpe: On the defendant's bill-heads and memorandums he sets forth that he is a wholesale and manufacturing chemist.

The Judge: Surely manufacturing chemists do not require licences. They do not require to be registered.

Mr. Sharpe: I think they would if they dealt as the New Supply Stores Company (Limited) do. Mr. Sharpe continuing, referred to the correspondence which took place between the parties.

The Judge: Did the plaintiff ever ask Webster if he was a chemist?

Mr. Sharpe: Webster told him that he was, and he conducts the correspondence under a certain title.

The Judge: I do not think there is any necessity to register as a chemist for the business of manufacturing chemist. He could not help thinking that the plaintiff should have made more inquiries. If he wanted to know what a man was, he was bound to inquire, and not accept the statement that he was a manufacturing chemist.

Mr. Sharpe argued that a chemist must be registered.

The Judge: Not at all in the present sense. Messrs. Chance are not registered.

Mr. Sharpe: But this is a shop carried on by the defendant, and altogether different from Chance's business, and the defendant is advertised as a wholesale chemist.

The Judge: He is not engaged as a retail chemist at all.

Mr. Sharpe: He is a patent-medicine vendor.

The Judge: Anybody may sell patent medicines.

Mr. Sharpe said in the course of the correspondence a contract was made between them, and the plaintiff went to West Bromwich, but before going there he (plaintiff) had no suspicion that there was anything wrong in regard to Mr. Webster's qualification.

The Judge: Did Mr. Webster ever represent that he had any qualification?

Mr. Sharpe: He does. He calls himself that which he has no right to do. He has no right to use the word he does. He uses the word in the Pharmacy Act, and it is there prescribed that he shall pass certain examinations

before he is entitled to use it and before he shall be allowed to describe himself as a chemist for the purposes of the Act. The mere fact of keeping a shop open and calling himself a chemist was a fraudulent representation, because he thereby said that which is not true. He (defendant) had got into conflict with the authorities, and knew he was doing wrong, and that unless he got a qualified person he would be running great risk, and he selected Mr. Holl as the person who would keep him in order. If Mr. Webster had been candid and told the plaintiff that he was not a chemist, and that he wanted a chemist upon his premises so that he might sell certain drugs, Mr. Holl would have had no ground of action.

The Judge: It would have been much better to look on the register in London than to bring this action.

Mr. Parfitt: My client would not have wanted the gentleman if he had been registered.

Mr. Sharpe: If a person comes to consult me he does not examine the roll of the Law Society to see whether I am qualified. His client had been misled by a false statement.

The Judge: I do not think it is a false statement. The plaintiff should have inquired.

Mr. Sharpe: But he calls himself a chemist.

The Judge: So he is a chemist.

Mr. Sharpe: No, he is not.

Mr. Parfitt: I can sell wholesale.

Mr. Sharpe: The defendant holds himself out as a family and dispensing chemist.

The Judge said there was no evidence to show that the defendant acted dishonestly. The plaintiff, he considered was foolish in not making further inquiries.

Mr. Sharpe: Mr. Holl relied upon the statement of the defendant.

The Judge said he ought not to have done so.

The plaintiff was called, and bore out his solicitor's statement. He said defendant did not tell him he was a registered chemist, but he was led to believe that he was.

Mr. Sharpe: Are there degrees in chemistry?

The Judge: A manufacturing chemist does not require to be registered.

The plaintiff said if he had known that Mr. Webster was not a qualified chemist he should not have come to West Bromwich.

Mr. Parfitt said if the plaintiff had misled himself, that did not make Mr. Webster liable.

The Judge said he did not consider there was any fraud or misrepresentation.

Mr. Parfitt said it would have been different if the defendant had advertised himself as a qualified chemist.

Mr. Sharpe: They do not advertise themselves in that way.

Mr. Parfitt: It is common to see chemists advertise themselves as chemists by examination.

The Judge said the word chemist did not imply that the person using it was registered.

Mr. Sharpe said he was going to show that the defendant was not a manufacturing chemist. He relied upon the word "chemist."

The Judge: Is not Sir Henry Roscoe a chemist? I suppose he is not a registered chemist, and does not sell chemicals by retail.

Mr. Sharpe: A man calling himself a chemist does not justify him in keeping a shop open.

The Judge: He may employ another person. I do not think, in this case, there is any misrepresentation at all.

Mr. Sharpe: The gist of the case is that the word chemist is improperly used, and that my client has been misled by this use of the word.

The Judge: I cannot help that. He ought not to be misled. Ultimately the Judge non-suited the plaintiff, but gave Mr. Sharpe leave to appeal.

A Barber-Chemist in Debt.

In the Westminster County Court on Tuesday, the Mutual Loan Fund Association applied for the committal of Adolph Phillips, a chemist and hairdresser, of White's Row, Spitalfields, for non-payment of a judgment debt. It was stated that twelve committal orders had been made in respect of this debt, and in each case the debtor had paid in preference to going to Holloway. His Honour made an order of committal to Holloway for twelve days, and suspended the warrant for six weeks.

Claim by a Chemist's Wife.

In the Westminster County Court on Wednesday, Mrs. Wilson, wife of Mr. Richard Wilson, chemist, Fitzroy Square, sought to recover a number of articles, or their value, which, it was alleged, had been wrongly detained by the defendant, a Mr. Wootton, plaintiff's half-brother. The goods in question were left in her father's possession, but he had since died and left all his property to the defendant. After hearing the evidence the Judge gave the plaintiff a verdict for 3*l*.

An Herbalist and the Apothecaries.

On Wednesday, at the Keighley County Court, before his Honour Judge Gates, Q.C., a case was mentioned in which two complaints had been lodged by the Master, Wardens, and Society of the Art and Mystery of Apothecaries, London, charging Mr. Henry Newton, herbalist, South Street, Keighley, with practising as an apothecary in England, by attending and supplying medicines to different persons. The proceedings, Mr. J. W. Craven stated, were taken under the Apothecaries Act.

The defendant desired that the action should be tried before a jury, and though the defendant had not given notice within the prescribed time, he now prayed the Court to grant his request.

His Honour: What is the issue?

Mr. Craven: What, under the grant of James I. and the Act of George III. is an apothecary, and what is a herbalist. I have written to the solicitors of the Society, and on the understanding that we consent to an adjournment, they leave it entirely to your Honour to say whether you think it a case for a jury.

His Honour: I should think that a single person would be better than a jury.

Mr. Craven said this was a matter that affected Mr. Newton to a very serious extent. He had practised for more than thirty years, and if these proceedings were successful, he would have to cease practising altogether. The Society of Herbalists had taken the matter up, and had instructed him to ask for a jury.

His Honour said he should have thought that a single professional man would have been better, but he did not object to a jury if one were really wished for.

Mr. Craven: The Society wish it, and I think it is to be made a test-case.

His Honour: Very good.

Liability for Carriage.

In the Westminster County Court, on Monday, the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company sued Messrs. McLean, merchants, of London, to recover 13*l*., balance of account for freight and charges in connection with the carriage of a consignment of scent despatched from London to Paris in pursuance of instructions given by the defendants. The goods were duly handed to the plaintiffs by the defendant firm, and despatched to Paris on September 29, and arrived at Paris on October 4. The consignees were notified, but for some time took no notice of the letter, and the property was placed in the railway warehouse. On November 10 the consignees wrote stating that they were in liquidation, and could not, therefore, take delivery. They suggested that the goods should be sent back to London. A long correspondence ensued between the plaintiffs and the defendants, the latter saying they had nothing more to do with the matter, as they were only the agents of the consignees. Ultimately, in pursuance of notice to that effect, the goods were sold at auction in Paris, and after warehouse and other charges had been paid there was still a balance of 13*l*. due to the plaintiffs in respect of the freights and charges. This was what was now sued for. The defendants contended that the company were not justified in selling the goods at a sacrifice, but ought rather to have adopted the suggestion of the consignees, and returned the consignment to the defendants in London, who would have had better facilities to dispose of them at a fair value. It was further contended that the action, if any, should have been taken by the French Railway Company against the consignees in Paris who were the persons who had broken the contract.

Judge Lumley Smith, Q.C., said it was a case of some commercial importance, and he would look into the cases bearing upon the point, and give judgment at a later date.

The Winter Session.

LIVERPOOL CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of this Association was held on Thursday, January 25, at the Royal Institution. Mr. J. J. Smith, the new President, occupied the chair. The annual report, read by the SECRETARY (Mr. J. Smith) showed that the membership was now 116, being an increase of 10 for the year. Mr. Parkinson's report showed that the credit balance has been increased from 16% to 19%.

The following gentlemen were then elected to the Council:—Messrs. J. Bain, A. S. Buck, M. Conroy, F.C.S., R. C. Cowley, E. Davies, F.I.C., F.C.S., T. H. Wardleworth, and T. S. Wokes.

SCHEDULING CARBOLIC ACID.

Mr. J. SMITH reported that he had come across a case which indicated the great importance of carbolic acid being placed on the schedule of poisons. A woman recently went to a chemist's and asked for some carbolic acid. On being questioned she said it was for a cold, and was to be taken on sugar. The chemist saw something must be wrong, and referred the woman to her friend who had advised her to try such a remedy. On coming back she said she had mistaken the name; it should have been Friar's Balsam! Mr. Smith thought this was an instance which showed the need of the article being placed under the control of those who were familiar with its properties.

The PRESIDENT then read his

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

in the course of which he said:—The position of honour you have conferred on me gave me surprise and trepidation on the occasion of my election, and those effects have not yet disappeared. I can only interpret your action as signifying a wish that small or average men as well as great ones should occupy the position of President of this Association.

We call ourselves the "Liverpool Chemists' Association." Am I presumptuous in asking, Are we correctly designated? How many of us deserve the name of chemist with its present-day wide application? A few amongst us of whom we are proud may lay claim to it, but the majority of us may require an adjective qualifying the noun "chemist." To my mind the qualification of "chemist" conferred on the successful Minor candidate is a larger title than the qualifying title conferred on the Major man.

Pharmacist is the name which correctly describes all of us engaged in pharmacy whether we be Minor, Major, Modified men or founders. And I cannot but believe that so long as the term pharmaceutical chemist or pharmacist is legally restricted to Major men only whilst belonging by its plain meaning to the whole body, so long will an anomaly exist which it would be wise for the Pharmaceutical Society to remedy.

This brings me back to the question I asked. In calling ourselves the Liverpool Chemists' Association are we up-to-date? Manchester, Brighton, Bolton, Cambridge, and the Midlands use a more correct designation than we do. There was a time when the Association had the greatest claim to the title, but times have changed, and other Associations have been formed in which chemical science alone absorbs the attention of their members, and pharmacists are now left to carry on the work of what, I believe, is the oldest provincial association of its kind.

A retrospective address with 1893 as its subject would not, I think, prove very interesting. Hash is not a favourite dish, I expect, with any of us. The existing laws as affecting pharmacy have been discussed locally and through the medium of our journals, and anything I could say would prove stale.

As regards future legislation, we consider that it should strike any unbiassed mind as an anomaly that seven unregistered men may do what it is illegal for one man to do, thus admitting that qualified ownership and direction are unnecessary. Carry the principle into the region of other illegal acts and you will be surprised where it lands you. Although I mention this unjust anomaly, I wish I felt sanguine of a speedy remedy being found. I confess I do

not. But I will say that we can feel little respect for those of our body who sell their services to a grocer, a draper, or a company whose policy is inimical to our own brethren.

The question of placing carbolic acid in the poison schedule still remains undecided by the Privy Council. One Department of Government urges it, as do coroners generally and also the Pharmaceutical Society; but the opponents to it are many, and some of their arguments have a show of reason. But they totally ignore the important fact that there is no middle course open. It must either continue to be sold by anyone, in any sort of receptacle, and without the necessity of a label, or it must be regarded as a poison and sold with the consequent restrictions. The importance of this subject may be gathered from the returns for 1891 of the number of cases of poisoning by carbolic acid.

A few weeks back I came across a statement by a brother-pharmacist that in the town in which he was in business, with a population of about 100,000, every medical man in it did his own dispensing. It struck me as singular that in a town of that size no medical man had had the courage to relinquish that part of his work. Would it not be well for us to relinquish the Micawber-like attitude of expecting something favourable to turn up in the way of legislation, and in lieu of it do our best to influence both the medical profession and the public in favour of dispensing by pharmacists? Legislation is not likely to help us here any more than it is likely to help the medical profession by preventing us from counter-prescribing in case of minor ailments.

We must, of course, admit that such a change is impracticable in country districts. In small towns we find objections which do not obtain in large cities like our own. I have a letter from a successful and highly respected practitioner in such a town, in reply to one I wrote him on the subject. He writes as follows:—

"1. Where a practitioner works by himself and desires to shift dispensing on account of its being too heavy, then the chemist can dispense for him cheaper than if the practitioner kept a dispenser.

"2. In small towns I fear jealousy would be at work, as practitioners would employ different chemists, and thus different interests would be brought into existence.

"3. Some patients would object, having a mistaken notion that their complaints would be known and talked about.

"4. Club and parish patients object to the trouble of first coming to the doctor and then going to the chemist's." He continues:—"In large towns it ought to work well, and I unhesitatingly say it is the right thing everywhere, and would lessen your call for prescribing; but it will be some while before it is taken up in small towns, and even then should be done by the profession *en masse*, thus preventing comparison."

Time will work a change even here as the public get convinced that such a reformation would involve greater safety to them. An appreciation, too, on the part of the pharmacist of his true calling, which is certainly not that of an all-round prescriber, will also help to bring him his legitimate work. I consider the prescribing chemist (found in most towns), who rarely keeps within lawful bounds, to be a great stumbling-block in the way of effecting right relations between the medical and pharmaceutical callings, and they best serve our body who endeavour to be helpmeets to the medical profession and not competitors.

In Liverpool, I believe, medical dispensing is not so largely indulged in as in London, where almost every practitioner sends the medicine to the people for whom it is destined. On the part of the medical man a formidable obstacle arises in the expectation of pecuniary loss, and as it is evident that competition in this profession is quite as severe as in our more commercial calling, this is not to be lightly treated. The anticipated loss to a busy practitioner would have compensating gains, and is more imaginary than real. He would have more time to devote to his more legitimate work and to obtain the leisure so necessary to an overworked professional man. He would be relieved of an anxiety and responsibility which we all know something of. The large percentage of bad debts, too, from which medical men proverbially suffer would not then include medicine supplied, and that would be a direct gain.

If it is urged that the change would involve greater expense to the patients and prevent them calling in their medical adviser as often as they otherwise would (which I

question), then the pharmacist should endeavour by one plan or another to overcome this objection, for it is certain that he can supply medicine to the public equally as reasonably as a medical man.

An article appeared lately in the *Liverpool Daily Post* bearing on the question whether it is well for a patient to know the composition of the medicines which are given to him, and it was gratifying to me to note that the whole article assumed the preparation of the medicine by the pharmacist. It closes as follows:—

It used to be said that the druggist made 11*d.* profit on every shilling he took over his counter. Nowadays, thanks to the advance in chemical science and manufacture, he does not realise anything like the same proportion, but as the custom stands he is able to charge an all-round sum of a shilling or eightpence, as the case may be, whether the cost of it be fairly great or only the price of the bottle and the label.

That reference to our custom of charging a uniform price for bottles of similar size or doses is to my mind deserving of our serious consideration if we wish to get dispensing into our hands.

Where expense forms an obstacle to the dispensing by pharmacists, it is better to relinquish the boast of getting full prices for dispensing if it involves dispensing about as many prescriptions as there are days in the week.

Another feature in our business which doubtless is objectionable to our medical brethren is the practice prevailing amongst some of us of putting up a variety of stamped remedies for various complaints.

It is common enough to hear pessimistic views. I cannot altogether share these views. Pharmacy has a future grander in privilege and social position than it has had in the past, and we can each do our part in thus improving the position of our calling by making ourselves more necessary and useful to our medical brethren and our fellow-men.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the President for his address.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

A MEETING was held in Edinburgh on Wednesday, January 24, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing presiding.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY (Mr. J. Rutherford Hill) intimated that Mr. D. B. Dott had not quite recovered from the illness which had prevented his being present at the December meeting, but he had sent his three papers, which he would read.

THE TESTS FOR CHLOROFORM.

Mr. Dott stated that in view of the fact recently authoritatively announced, that a new Pharmacopœia is to be produced before long, it seemed an appropriate time to bring forward anything one had to say on this subject. Although no discoveries of importance regarding chloroform had been made since the compilation of the last Pharmacopœia, there was a general consensus of opinion that the characters and tests required some revision. Firstly, as to specific gravity. From his own experience, and from a series of experiments lately tried in their laboratory, he was clearly of opinion that the specific gravity should be reduced—an opinion which was in harmony with the results obtained by Biltz and Schacht. It was also the opinion of Dr. Squibb, who had given great attention to the matter, and was the first to observe the restraining influence of alcohol on the decomposition of chloroform. Dr. Squibb maintained that chloroform should not have a higher density than 1.494, and preferably that it should be 1.490. Chloroform reduced to specific gravity 1.490 would resist decomposition better than chloroform of 1.497 specific gravity. The latter might resist decomposition when kept with all known precautions, but experience did not justify the belief that the users of chloroform could be relied on to adopt these precautions. And if a lower specific gravity were desirable in this country, it was even more so in tropical regions, and that was an important point to be considered in drawing up an Imperial Pharmacopœia. The specific gravity had best be stated as of 1.490 to 1.495, which would allow a reasonable margin of variation. It would be more satisfactory to both manufacturers and analysts. Secondly, as to the colour yielded to sulphuric acid.

The purpose of that test was a good one, but it must always be used with discrimination, because the coloration might be due simply to a trace of oil derived from luting or to resin dissolved out of the cork. Thirdly, as to a test for carbonyl chloride, &c.—in other words, a test to show whether chloroform had undergone appreciable decomposition. Although it had been well known for many years that chloroform was under certain conditions liable to decomposition, and that the fact of its having decomposed could be ascertained by test, there was no such test in the present Pharmacopœia. It seemed to have been pretty well ascertained that the chief products of decomposition were carbonyl chloride, hydrochloric acid, and chlorine, although there was also a secondary reaction on the alcohol present giving rise to ethyl chloride and other compounds. The tests that had been employed to detect decomposition in chloroform were moist litmus-paper and solution of silver nitrate. He did not think that there could be the least question as to these being the best and most satisfactory tests. Baryta-water he had not found so satisfactory. A trace of carbonic acid would cause a minute precipitate which it would be very rash to conclude was due to carbonyl chloride, and altogether the test was more open to misconception, and of course did not react with hydrochloric acid or chlorine. There did not appear to be any advantage in introducing a test specially for the purpose of detecting free chlorine. He had not determined the delicacy of the silver-nitrate reaction, but an experiment he had made might be regarded as practically conclusive. One volume of decomposed chloroform was diluted to 100 volumes with pure chloroform (which gave no reaction with silver nitrate). The mixture was then shaken up with nitrate-of-silver solution, and gave at once a well-marked turbidity. He would therefore suggest that the tests for chloroform might be as follow:—

CHARACTERS AND TESTS.—A dense liquid of characteristic odour; specific gravity, 1.490 to 1.495. On allowing $\frac{1}{2}$ fluid drachm to evaporate from a clean surface, no foreign odour should be perceptible at any stage of the evaporation. When 1 fluid drachm be agitated with an equal volume of solution of silver nitrate no precipitate or turbidity should be produced after standing for five minutes. On shaking up the chloroform with half its volume of distilled water, the water should not redden litmus-paper. When shaken with an equal volume of sulphuric acid, little or no colour should be imparted to the acid.

Mr. J. B. STEPHENSON said it was a little startling to find Mr. Dott coming so low with the specific gravity, but he was generally regarded, and justly so, as reliable.

Mr. PETER BOA said that one thing had struck him very forcibly during the last few years, and that was the tendency towards simplicity in the methods of testing; and he did not think that while that was so the reliability of the tests had been in any way sacrificed. The tests proposed to be adopted were such as could be applied by anyone with the minimum of manipulative skill in applying tests, and it seemed to him that there was no necessity for tests of a more complicated character for chloroform.

Mr. GIBSON considered that Mr. Dott had made a good point in regard to the specific gravity. It was well known that spirit retarded the decomposition of chloroform, and he thought the increase of spirit would keep it right. If Mr. Dott had introduced that test alone his paper would have been valuable. He (Mr. Gibson) considered that the crucial test was specific gravity, showing that the spirit had been added to it.

Mr. I. W. THOMSON said that it was remarkable that nearly all the other Pharmacopœias gave a lower specific gravity than did that of this country. In the Japanese Pharmacopœia it was 1.485 to 1.490, in that of the Netherlands it was similar, and in the German it was even lower. At the same time he had known of chloroform of a higher specific gravity than Mr. Dott proposed being kept in Peru for seven years, and it was afterwards handed to a medical practitioner and found to be perfectly good. No one, he thought, could raise any practical objections to a specific gravity of 1.490 to 1.495. With regard to the sulphuric-acid test, he held that it should give no colour after standing at least twelve hours, and the question of luting or corks should not be considered. The baryta-water test was open to the objection put forward by Mr. Dott; at the same time it was one not to be thrown lightly aside.

Mr. D. Brown (of Messrs. J. F. Macfarlan & Co.) had

sent a communication on the subject to the Assistant Secretary, by whom it was read. The writer stated that the tests for the purity of chloroform published by him some time ago represented a good deal of work and careful observation, and an extended experience of them only confirmed the favourable opinion he had formed of their usefulness. He knew of no better means for detecting the first signs of decomposition than the zinc-iodide and starch test, and he considered that by increasing the quantity used for the foreign-odour test, and diminishing the quantity of sulphuric acid to 10 per cent. in the acid test, a very large quantity of impure chloroform was detected which by the usual methods of testing would pass into consumption. Rough-and-ready tests were sufficient where only a low standard of purity was required, but if absolute purity—which some said they had reached—was required the tests could not be too exacting.

Mr. HILL pointed out that in the French Codex two chloroforms were given—one of them called commercial chloroform, having a density of 1.49, and the other called pure chloroform, having a density of 1.5. This suggested the idea to him that they might in this country have two chloroforms—one to be known as commercial chloroform, which could be used for a variety of purposes, and the other to be a pure chloroform, which would be used for medical purposes. With regard to tests for chloroform, a very delicate one for the detection of free acid was that of Vulpian. It was well known that when decomposition and separation of free acid had begun in chloroform it proceeded with great rapidity, and it might be advisable that chloroform that would not stand this test should not be sent out.

Mr. Dott's second contribution was entitled

A PREPARATION OF IRON.

The writer stated that his attention had been called to a ferrous preparation (of foreign origin) which rejoiced in a highly commendatory advertisement accompanied by no less laudatory testimonials, some of the latter being signed by medical practitioners. It was suggested that the iron existed in a peculiar state of combination which rendered it specially easy of assimilation. The state of combination was understood and believed to be of the nature of an albuminate or peptonate. Mr. Dott had not made an exhaustive analysis, but from preliminary experiments he found that this much-vaunted preparation was nothing but a weak, rather acid solution of ferrous chloride with a little common salt.

Mr. Dott's third contribution was upon

THE STANDARD TEMPERATURE FOR SPECIFIC GRAVITY.

For the accurate determination of the specific gravity of a liquid the most suitable temperature is 0° C.; but for practical purposes what was wanted was not extreme accuracy, but sufficient accuracy with the maximum of convenience, and hence the specific gravity of a liquid was usually referred to the ordinary temperature, which had come to be generally regarded as 60° F. The legal standard for determining the measures of capacity was 62° F. Out of doors the normal temperature might be regarded as 60°, but in a laboratory it must be considerably higher. Besides, the question of what constitutes the average temperature of a laboratory is not the chief factor in the matter under consideration. In the very usual method of determining specific gravity by means of a bottle with perforated stopper, or by the ordinary form of Sprengel tube, it is of no consequence that the temperature should fall in the course of weighing, but it was decidedly objectionable that the temperature should rise. Not only so, but while it was always easy to slightly warm a liquid, it was difficult and troublesome in summer weather to cool the liquid to 60°. What he proposed was that in future determinations of specific gravity the more convenient course would be to refer the determination to 20° C, instead to 15.5°, as was customary at present.

The CHAIRMAN said that he supposed Mr. Dott in his second paper referred to one of those evanescent preparations which vexed the pharmaceutical soul every now and again. A gentleman had asked him recently why they did not have a laboratory. That might be very useful, and he thought it would be well also to have a museum for these preparations for the benefit of future generations. (Laughter.)

Mr. J. I. FRASER said that he had always been suspicious

about the preparation that he supposed was referred to by Mr. Dott, and he thought that the iron in it was practically *nil*. The temperature that Mr. Dott suggested in his third paper as the standard would, he considered, be an improvement.

Mr. COWIE agreed that it would be a considerable advantage to have the standard temperature for specific gravity increased from 15.5° to 20° C.

Mr. BOA thought that 60° was high enough for them, although for some parts of England, and for the majority of other countries, an increased temperature would be better.

Mr. THOMSON said that the raising of the temperature, especially in the case of light liquids, would materially alter all the recognised specific gravities, and this would be a serious matter. It might be that for an International Pharmacopœia a higher temperature would be an advantage, but so far as they were concerned he thought 60° suited very well.

Mr. STEPHENSON approved of a higher temperature than at present being the standard. They could easily increase the temperature in a room if that were necessary, but it was a more difficult matter to reduce it.

Mr. HILL, referring to Mr. Thomson's contention that the recognised specific gravities would be materially altered, said that if "authority" specified a certain density at a certain temperature the change would be more apparent than real.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, in the absence of the writer, also read a paper by Dr. Gordon Sharp, entitled

PAPAIN DIGESTION: THE ENTIRE ABSENCE OF PEPTONE, WITH NOTES OF PAPAIN.

In his paper on koumiss read before the Branch in December, 1892, he had stated that from numerous experiments on papain, pus, urine, and proteids he had been led to believe that, apart from the presence of pepsin or pancreatin, no peptone was ever formed, and what had hitherto been called peptone was really albumose*. Further acquaintance with the subject confirmed his views on that point. Many distinguished authorities held peptone to be one of the constituents of digestion, but his own experiments had led him to agree with the opinion of Dr. Sidney Martin, that "no true peptones are formed." He would not have done more on the subject at present, but for the paper on papain read before the last Pharmaceutical Conference by Mr. Frederick Davis. To ascertain the presence or absence of peptones, Mr. Davis had used the copper test by which he (Dr. Sharp) understood the copper sulphate and caustic soda test (the biuret test) was meant. That was a fallacious test, for it gave the pink reaction with both albumose and peptone.

Dr. Sharp described in detail experiments which he had made, and which proved that simple papain digestion produces (1) globulose—traces; (2) proto-albumose—traces; (3) hetero-albumose—traces; (4) deuto-albumose—abundant; (5) dys-albumose and undigested matters—peptone entirely absent. Commercial papain itself he had repeatedly examined, and had found some samples slightly acid, the acidity probably being due to decomposition. He had found no specimen entirely soluble either in water or in weak alkaline fluid. The insoluble portion is probably dys-albumose in greater part if not in whole. The plant *Carica Papaya* is believed to contain carpaine, $C_{11}H_{17}NO_3$, but none appears to be present in Finkler's papain so far as Dr. Sharp's experiments went to show. His results as to the absence of peptone had been confirmed by his brother—Mr. Alexander Sharp, chemist and druggist—who had worked under his directions.

Mr. GIBSON said that Dr. Sharp's paper confirmed the conclusions he had come to as the result of experiments he had made with papain.

Mr. DUNCAN thought that condemnation of papain and of the character of papaw was rather sweeping, because from time immemorial the leaf of this plant had been used to make meat tender. Of course he did not in this connection say anything regarding papain. A medical student had related to him how that a number of his father's cattle had been killed by eating papaw-leaves, and on examination their stomachs were found to be perforated. He was sorry that Dr. Sharp had not tried acid and alkali in his experiments, and he thought that omission had been a mistake. He had always understood that papain—which was, like trypsin, a

* On this point see a previous research by Dr. Eccles, of New York, THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, October 25, 1890, page 582.—ED. C. & D.

ferment of the pancreatic juice—only acted like pepsin in an acid solution.

Mr. James Clark, chemist, Aberdeen, had sent a communication on the subject to the Assistant Secretary, which was then read. The writer in this maintained that papain was absolutely useless unless it could complete its work in not more than six hours. He could quite believe that Dr. Sharp had found no peptone in papain, and he (Mr. Clark) did not think that papain justified the very laudatory advertisements published concerning it, and he had been surprised to see in a recently published book on digestion that the author had incorporated matter wholesale from the advertisements without acknowledging the source.

Mr. HILL said with regard to the perforation of the stomach, in the case of the cattle referred to by Mr. Duncan, that the circumstance was important and interesting, because it was in contradiction to what Mr. Davis and others had alleged—namely, that papaw did not act upon living tissue, and that it was quite a mistake to suppose that it did so. He agreed with Mr. Duncan that the weak point in Dr. Sharp's experiments was that they were conducted without the addition of either acid or alkali, and that the results would have been more conclusive if he had placed the papain under the same conditions as pepsin.

The CHAIRMAN did not think that papain had secured the confidence of the medical profession, and his own opinion was that it had not any digestive power as had pepsin.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, votes of thanks were awarded to Mr. Dott and Dr. Sharp for their papers.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY afterwards described a number of recent additions to the museum.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that at the next meeting, to be held in February, there would be a discussion on the latest edition of the United States Pharmacopœia.

The proceedings then terminated.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

AT the fortnightly meeting of this Association held on January 18, the principal business on the agenda was the arrangements for the annual social meeting of the Glasgow drug-trade. This, it was decided, should take the form of a supper, to be held about the middle of February. In this connection the President, Mr. Currie, stated that the committee of the Kinninmont Testimonial Fund, of which he was secretary, had approached Mr. Kinninmont with a view to ascertaining his wishes as to the form the testimonial should take. Mr. Kinninmont said at once that he could not accept any personal gift, and generously proposed that the money should all be given to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association. But to this the committee would not consent, and suggested that the Testimonial Fund should be applied to founding a bursary for pharmacy students in Glasgow. To this proposal Mr. Kinninmont cordially assented. The testimonial, Mr. Currie added, would be presented to Mr. Kinninmont at the annual supper.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held at 103 Great Russell Street on Thursday last, a discussion took place on

A SUGGESTED CODE OF PHARMACEUTICAL ETHICS.

The PRESIDENT mentioned that this discussion was prompted by one held last year upon "Unjust Trading," when a resolution was forwarded to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society requesting them to formulate a code of ethics. The Council of the Association had been considering the matter, but it was thought desirable that the subject should be again brought forward. Mr. E. H. Gane would open the discussion.

Mr. GANE, after some preliminary remarks, submitted two codes to the meeting, one a voluntary, the other a compulsory code. They were as follows:—

VOLUNTARY CODE.

Clause 1.—All pharmacists shall be members or associates of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Clause 2.—No pharmacist shall take an apprentice unless the said apprentice shall have passed the Preliminary examination or its equivalent, and all pharmacists shall exercise due care that their apprentices are fit and proper persons to take up the calling. If the apprentice have not passed the Preliminary examination, the term of apprenticeship shall date from the time of his passing such an examination.

Clause 3.—No pharmacist shall engage any assistant above the age of 23 years unless he be duly qualified, or can show good cause why he be not.

Clause 4.—No pharmacist shall engage himself or lend his name to any person or persons not duly qualified, or to any company formed for the purpose of evading the requirements of the Pharmacy Act, and no pharmacist shall engage as an assistant anyone who has been guilty of such conduct.

Clause 5.—All pharmacists shall do their utmost to discourage the sale of secret remedies, and no pharmacist shall openly advertise any such preparation.

Clause 6.—No pharmacist shall give a copy of any prescription to anyone other than the patient for whom the medicine has been prescribed, and in no case without the sanction of the prescriber, unless the original be lost or destroyed.

Clause 7.—All pharmacists shall do their utmost to obey and see obeyed the spirit and letter of the law relating to the sale of poisons. No pharmacist shall sell any schedule poisons by wholesale to any but a qualified retailer or another wholesaler.

COMPULSORY CODE.

Clause 1.—Wilful adulteration of drugs or medicinal preparations.

Clause 2.—Conviction for criminal offences.

Clause 3.—Wilful tampering with the prescriptions of physicians.

Clause 4.—Wilful non-observance of the laws relating to the sale of poisons.

Clause 5.—Covering unqualified persons, or lending their name or services to any company formed for the purpose of evading the requirements of the Pharmacy Act.

Mr. Gane presented the latter code in the form of a resolution to be presented to the Pharmaceutical Society, urging the Society to present, as soon as possible, a Bill to Parliament asking for power to regulate the professional conduct of pharmacists, and to erase from the register the names of persons deemed guilty by a committee of censors of breaches of the compulsory code. The speaker, in commenting upon the clauses *seriatim*, said he was somewhat taken aback by a statement in the editorial columns of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST some time back, to the effect that pharmacists were under no obligation to become members or associates of the Pharmaceutical Society; this coming from a paper of such high moral principles could only be characterised as a disgrace to the staff. He enlarged in a somewhat similar strain on the other points indicated.

His resolution was seconded *pro forma* by Mr. R. H. JONES.

Mr. HILL expressed agreement with Mr. Gane in all the points raised, except the one dealing with assistants, requiring them to be qualified by the time they were 23. He thought it would be a hardship in many cases. Mr. CARE congratulated Mr. Gane upon his lofty ideals, but did not agree with him. Speaking of covering, he did not see any harm in a man engaging himself to a stores or company so long as he did his duty; it was a parallel case to a doctor hiring his services to a commercial company and agreeing to supply medicine and advice to all the employes. Commenting upon this speaker, Mr. STROTHER said it was not the men who engaged themselves to the stores that did harm to the trade, but the cutting men who traded with someone else's capital and often name. Mr. R. H. JONES was convinced that there was need of such a code as had been proposed, but was sure that nothing could be done except by the Pharmaceutical Society, and it could not be done by them unless they were supported. Mr. CARE's parallel was a very bad one; it could only be even similar if a doctor let himself out to a number of unqualified men and allowed them to practise in his name. Mr. CHASTIN thought it a mistake to separate the codes into voluntary and compulsory. Ought not the prescribing indulged in by chemists to be a clause in the code to compel them to refrain from it? The subject of men engaging themselves to stores was very much overrated. Mr. W. E. PLANT said Mr. Gane had approached the subject in the wrong way by speaking of our professional conduct. We were not professional men, but tradesmen. Why did not Mr. Gane's code include the question of charging? Prices were very anomalous, and the rate to

which they varied ridiculous; there ought to be some limit to the charges made. Prices, Mr. J. H. ANDERSON thought, were best left out of the code, for it was very dangerous ground, and a chemist must be able to act independently in the matter. Mr. LONG differed about secret remedies. He did not see how they could be suppressed nor how they could be distinguished from proprietary articles. Mr. SAGE had a copy of the Institute of Chemistry code, and quoted the first clause in it, which deemed it unprofessional for analytical chemists to advertise. He thought it equally bad taste for a pharmacist to do so. Advertising was undoubtedly necessary and proper, but not to the extent it was carried at present. There was no wrong in a man engaging himself to the stores, for at many of them the Pharmacy Act was obeyed in every sense. What he understood to be culpable was for a man to lend himself to a number of unqualified persons in order to assist them to evade the law. Mr. W. ANDERSON was not favourably disposed to the formation of any code; and Mr. ROE thought the British public had wakened up to the sense of being overcharged, and were determined not to put up with it, hence stores must have an existence, as they supplied a want. If a chemist was to be tied in so many ways in respect to his conduct he would soon have to shut up shop.

Mr. GANE, in reply, remarked that after the views he had heard expressed, he thought a code of ethics was more than ever necessary.

The PRESIDENT considered it was desirable there should be some code of ethics for chemists, and if only they could be induced to carry out the suggested "voluntary" one, in course of time it would not be necessary to transform it into a law, for the provisions would be only common custom. He then read the resolutions and put them to the vote, when they were carried by an overwhelming majority.

BRIGHTON JUNIOR ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACY.

At the meeting on January 24 the paper by Mr. Lomax on "Evolution" was unavoidably postponed until February 17, and a discussion on a proposed code of ethics was taken instead. This was based on the scheme drawn up by Mr. Gane, of the London Chemists' Assistants' Association, and sent to the Hon. Sec. of the Brighton Junior Association. The discussion was an animated one, and ultimately a series of resolutions was carried unanimously. The resolutions expressed the opinions that assistants who subscribe should be represented on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society; that the Pharmaceutical Society should establish a rule that no apprentice should be taken unless he had passed the Preliminary examination; that the time has not arrived for fixing limit of age at which the Minor examination must be passed; that it is impossible to interfere with employers in the choice of assistants, and that the offence of taking service with a store is not sufficiently serious to warrant the removal of the names of the offenders from the register; that until a thorough understanding and agreement is established between the pharmacist and the physician concerning dispensing and prescribing discussion on the subject would be premature, and that the question of giving copies of prescriptions should be left to be decided between the pharmacist and the patient; that the Association notices with pleasure that within the last two years the Pharmaceutical Society has been rigorously enforcing the poison laws, and therefore does not consider that any interference in that respect is necessary; and, finally, that should the Pharmaceutical Society promote any law calculated to extend the advantages of pharmacists in this country, such action should receive the hearty and unanimous support of the Association.

SHEFFIELD PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

ON Wednesday evening the members of the Sheffield Pharmaceutical Society assembled in large numbers, at the Montgomery Hall, to hear a lecture by Mr. W. LAMOND HOWIE, F.C.S., of London, on "The Scottish Alps." The lecture was much enjoyed. Dr. H. C. Sorby occupied the chair. The proceeds were devoted to the School of Pharmacy Fund.

THE CAMBRIDGE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held on Thursday, January 25, a paper was read on "Pepsine, Pancreatine, and Allied Digestive Ferments," by Mr. A. IVATT, M.A. (lecturer at Christ's and Sidney Colleges). Mr. A. Deck was in the chair.

MARRIAGE.

GIBSON—NICOL.—On January 26, at 30 Lothian Street, Edinburgh, James Arthur Gibson, chemist, 8 Nicolson Street (third son of Wm. Gibson, J.P., Billywalter, co. Down), to Margaret Sheran, eldest daughter of James Nicol, Edinburgh.

DEATHS.

BETTS.—On January 18, Mr. J. Y. Betts, chemist and druggist, Coventry. Deceased was for some years a member of the Town Council and Board of Guardians.

DYER.—At Trowbridge, Wilts, on January 18, Mr. Henry Dyer, chemist and druggist. Aged 90 years. The deceased gentleman had been in business at Trowbridge since 1827, and he took an active part in his pharmacy until three months ago, when he was confined to his room. Weakness resulting from old age was the immediate cause of his death. For 66 years deceased was connected with the Wesleyan Methodists as a local preacher and trustee.

LOTZE.—Scandinavian pharmacy has suffered a considerable loss in the death of Apotheker Lotze of Odensee, Denmark, who has recently died of influenza. Lotze was for many years president of the Danish Pharmaceutical Society, and took a prominent part in all international pharmaceutical congresses. As he died childless, his extensive business will probably become the property of the husband of his adopted daughter.

MURRAY.—At No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, China, on December 11, in his 24th year, Alexander Murray, assistant chemist to Messrs. McTavish & Lehmann (Limited), Shanghai, and formerly of Stirling.

NOBBS.—On January 6, William Mather Nobbs, chemist and druggist, of Bowes Park, N. Aged 76.

PRICE.—On January 20, Benjamin William Price, chemist and druggist, of Redhill, Surrey. Aged 53.

URQUHART.—On January 11, Roderick Urquhart, chemist and druggist, of Edinburgh. The deceased for many years carried on a school of pharmacy in Edinburgh in connection with the Marshall-street Dispensary.

WILKINSON.—On January 7, Arthur Molyneux Wilkinson, chemist and druggist, of Hemel Hempstead. Aged 28.

WINGATE.—On January 16, at Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire, Stephen Wingate, pharmaceutical chemist. Aged 63.

Personalities.

THE late Dr. J. K. Hasskarl, whose death we announced in a recent issue, has bequeathed his library to the University of Strassburg and his herbarium to the University of Leyden.

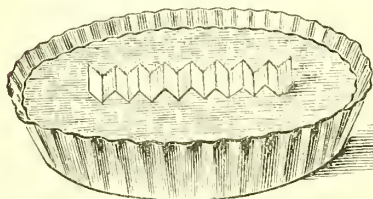
MR. J. H. LASCELLES, representing Messrs. Dakin Brothers and other English firms, has just completed his third journey through India, and is now starting from Bombay, on a tour through Burmah.

MR. J. R. GREEN, M.A., B.Sc., professor of botany to the Pharmaceutical Society, has been approved by the General Board of Studies of the Cambridge University for the degree of Doctor in Science.

COLONEL GEORGE J. SEABURY they call him in Sweden, but that is a rank higher than he claims. Mr. Seabury shouldered his musket in the war, and one of the gems of art which he has in his offices in Maiden Lane, New York, is his portrait in oils which shows him in the regimental uniform.

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Editorial Comments.

MEDICAL DISPENSING.

ONCE more the question of dispensing by medical men has come across the pharmaceutical horizon. A fortnight ago

the chemists of Plymouth discussed the matter in not too amiable temper, and the President of the Liverpool Chemists' Association referred to it more calmly in his inaugural address. The subject is one which rather favours warmth of temper on the part of chemists, many of whom think that, since they are the only body of men who are qualified by training and examination to dispense medicines, they alone should be entrusted with dispensing. That was the view put forward by Mr. Cocks at Plymouth, but he went too far in urging that chemists should claim the sole right to dispense. This implies a new legal enactment which the Pharmaceutical Council is never likely to ask for, and which no member of Parliament would risk his reputation in seeking. It would mean essentially a monopoly, and that is contrary to the spirit of the age.

Pharmacists are inclined to overlook the fact that medical men were in this field before them. In the process of differentiation, which all callings have more or less undergone with the advance of civilisation, pharmacy as an integral part of the medical profession has been specialised so that the larger part of the practice has been lopped off medicine without carrying with it all the privileges. Dispensing remains with medical men, and if anybody has a vested right in it it is they. This circumstance should not, however, be an obstacle to securing for the public the best service in dispensing medicines, and ensuring the best medical treatment. The higher ranks of the medical profession recognising that dispensing is a drag to purely professional duties have discountenanced it, and it is remarkable that in Ireland and Scotland medical dispensing is the exception rather than the rule; indeed, dispensing is placed upon such a high platform in Ireland that it is reserved to medical practitioners and pharmaceutical chemists, the latter having it all to do, virtually. That medical practice *minus* dispensing is possible in Ireland and Scotland is the most hopeful sign for England and Wales; for what has been done in the poorer countries can surely be accomplished in the richer, if the matter is gone about in the right way. It is notable too that in Ireland and Scotland the very thing exists which some Plymouth speakers strongly discouraged, viz., friendly relations between doctors and chemists. This, obviously, is the first condition for the abolition of medical dispensing, and that it has been entirely successful in practice is one of the most common experiences in Ireland and Scotland, and in many individual cases in England and Wales. "The less chemists had to do with doctors the better," said one Plymouth speaker. No policy could surely be more absurd than this, for the interests of both classes are the same; they are not apart, but united by a bond of kinship which grows stronger as each confines himself the more to his specific duties. Mr. Smith, of Liverpool, has given some practical suggestions in regard to the formation of better relations between medical men and chemists in small towns, and these suggestions may be commended to the earnest consideration of thoughtful chemists. Good results have often followed amicable arrangements of the kind suggested, and once medical dispensing has been suppressed in a district it has rarely been established again, while the modern arrangement has given greater satisfaction to physician, pharmacist and patient. Allegations to the contrary are mainly based on theoretical considerations and old-fashioned prejudice.

Individual effort cannot do everything, however. It would be advantageous if medical and pharmaceutical authorities would move in the matter, to the extent at least of recommending that medical dispensing should be discontinued. Now that a five years' curriculum is required of medical students, for the express object of ensuring a better knowledge of the diagnosis and treatment of disease, it would

surely be consistent for their teachers to advise them not to meddle with dispensing. There are few teachers in the London medical schools who can dispense without a breach of medical etiquette. This rule exists for the better practice of medicine, and it would be beneficial if it were to apply all round.

THE LONDON STOCK OF QUININE.

"We will go further, and express our belief that . . . the era of quinine at 9d. per oz. and less may be regarded as closed, and (that) we shall probably shortly arrive at a time when 1s. or thereabouts will be the normal axis round which, with a short radius, prices will revolve."—
(*C. & D.*, December 23, 1893, p. 895.)

THE quantity of sulphate of quinine stocked in the public warehouses in London has always been a dubious factor in estimates of the prospects of the drug. It will no longer be so in future. A few weeks ago representations were made to the Docks Committee and the other warehouses known to hold stocks of quinine, asking them to publish, from the beginning of the New Year, monthly returns of the stocks, imports and deliveries of quinine, as is done in the case of many of the principal drugs and with nearly all the staple articles of colonial produce. The memorial was backed by many influential persons connected with the quinine business, and as the principal holders of the stock were either on the side of those demanding publicity or remained neutral, the Docks and other warehouse companies assented to the proposal. The official returns have not yet been published at the moment of writing, but they were known to a small number of interested parties as early as midday on January 31, and on the afternoon of that day the London drug trade generally were acquainted with the figures, which proved to be smaller than was generally anticipated, the total being about 3,227,000 ounces net, of which 2,465,000 are held at the Crutched Friars warehouse of the Dock companies, 665,000 at Smith's warehouse, 62,000 at Bull Wharf, and 35,000 at Red Lion Wharf. It is to be hoped that the warehouses will add to the figures of the present stock those of the supplies in their charge on the corresponding dates of the five years immediately preceding, as well as statistics of the receipts and deliveries during that period. Such figures would be of great value as showing the ratio of decrease of our stocks, for it is generally believed that the supply here has dwindled rapidly, at any rate since 1890.

The 3,227,000 oz. now in the London warehouses form the bulk of what is known as the "second-hand stocks" of quinine in the central markets. A certain quantity is held in small lots by private holders all over the world, but this is probably not a very large one. What supply there may be on hand at the factories is a matter for conjecture, but it will not have an appreciable effect upon the market. It is also impossible to state what relation the stock in London bears to the average requirements of the world, but judging roughly by the total imports of quinine salts into the United States (by far the largest consumer of the drug), it is estimated that the warehouse stock in London would satisfy those wants for about four months.

The knowledge of the imminent publication of the "quinine-returns" caused a good deal of excitement in Mincing Lane this week, and at the Commercial Sale-rooms "guessing-competitions" were entered into freely by brokers, dealers, and jobbers. It would be unpleasant to some of the gentlemen who took part in this amusement to reveal their individual estimates, and as no purpose of general utility could be achieved by doing so we refrain. It may be stated, however, that the estimates varied from 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 oz., and that some of those who were

believed to have the best opportunities for judging came nearest to the extremes of under and over estimation. But what of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST'S estimates? readers will ask. Well, we have no reason to hesitate in reprinting what appeared in the issue of this journal of August 27, 1892 (page 345), under the heading of "What is our stock of quinine?" It will there be found stated that when the drugs stored at the old Fenchurch Street warehouse were removed to Crutched Friars in January, 1890, the total quantity of quinine transported was 2,829 cases, weighing 125 tons 16 cwt. 1 qr., but that, owing to the steady diminution of the supply, the stock at the time of writing might be assumed to be little over 3,500,000 oz. In this note we only referred to the stock at the Dock warehouses, but when our estimate was challenged by the agent for one of the German factories, who believed even 3,000,000 oz. to be an excessive figure for the whole of London, we explained that we did not believe that the stocks at the other warehouses were large enough appreciably to affect the total, which we then placed at slightly above 3,500,000 oz. Allowing for the shrinkage of the stock which has since taken place, our estimate was clearly correct. We claim no credit for this, inasmuch as our figures were based upon official statistics supplied to us, but we are justified in pointing to the moral that it is safer to trust to the unbiassed opinion of an independent organ than to the reports of interested private persons.

As will be seen upon a reference to our Trade Report, there has been a strong and active speculative movement in quinine this week. It is to be hoped that this will not increase when the stock statistics become generally known, but that the drug will be allowed to settle down quietly at the figure justified by the evident smallness of its supply.

SUBLIME OR RIDICULOUS.

THE generous enthusiasm and lofty ideals of youth are pretty enough in discourses and in fiction, but when they come to be applied in the form of ethical lectures by young men who have evidently very much yet to learn, to their more experienced seniors, their resolutions are only saved from being offensive by being absurd. The members of the London Chemists' Assistants' Association have resolved that the moral law requires their employers to do certain things and to refrain from doing other things which have no more to do with the moral law than they have to do with high-water at London Bridge. Persons who can argue or agree that there is any sort of moral duty on the part of any chemist to subscribe to the Pharmaceutical Society are not exactly the persons we should select to draft a code of ethics for the trade. They might as well lay down a dogma that everybody should buy a particular kind of cheese. As a topic for an evening's amusing debate, there is no reason why chemists' assistants should not choose the ethics of their trade to talk about, but we take the liberty to advise them not in future to take themselves so seriously as to send reports of their discussions to the journals, or to submit their resolutions to the Pharmaceutical Society.

A too subtle perception of the ethical fitness of things has induced another young gentleman to bring before a County Court Judge an infraction of what we in the trade regard as pharmaceutical propriety, the enormity of which, however, he has found impossible to represent to a legal mind. This young gentleman was engaged as an assistant by the managing director of certain drug-stores. After entering upon his duties he found, to his horror, that the managing director was not a qualified chemist. He therefore left him.

and sued him for damages, alleging that the defendant had misled him by using the title chemist on his memorandum and other forms. The Judge seems, naturally enough, to have found some difficulty in realising what was the exact grievance of the plaintiff. It was not brought specifically to his knowledge that the defendant company were within their legal right in describing themselves as chemists, which we suppose is what they did; but he came to the conclusion that there had been no misrepresentation, and nonsuited the plaintiff accordingly. We have protested more vigorously than most people against the system of qualification by company registration, but it is of no use to disregard the fact that the law allows it, and, therefore, the use of the description *per se* could hardly be legally a misrepresentation. We must congratulate the plaintiff, Mr. Holl, on his sweet simplicity in having no suspicion that the managing-director of a supply-store was not an examined chemist; and he deserves credit, too, for his chivalry in refusing to add a method of business which he regards as injurious to the trade generally. But country courts can hardly take cognisance of trade etiquette—not at all events, till the Pharmaceutical Society shall have obeyed their Russell Street advisers, by incorporating their code into a Bill, and passing it through Parliament.

SECRET MEDICINES IN BELGIUM.

THE case to which we referred last week, which is shortly to come before the Belgian Cour de Cassation, has a special interest for us, inasmuch as it relates to an English medicine. The defendant is a M. Alphonse Copperman, pharmacien, Place de Meir, Antwerp, and his alleged infringement of the law is that of having sold a bottle of Sequah's Prairie Flower which did not bear on its label the names of the medicines of which it was composed. This, as we explained last week, is required by the *arrêté royal* of March 1, 1853 and the question for the Court to decide is whether the ordinance is in accordance with the law. It is admitted by the Public Prosecutor that the law allows secret medicines; but he says the ordinance insisting on the ingredients being named on the label does not destroy the secrecy of the medicine: the proportions and the process of manufacture are still left intact. The Court of First Instance at Antwerp found in favour of this view, and fined Mr. Copperman 400*fr.* Both the defendant and the Procureur du Roi appealed, the latter on the ground that the penalty was not sufficient. The case was heard in the Appeal Court of Brussels on December 23 last. On the ground of an informality in the earlier proceedings, the Court quashed the previous decision, but decided, as it has power to do, to hear the whole case again. In the result a judgment was given imposing a penalty of 100*fr.* on the ground that "the indication of the substances entering into the composition of a remedy cannot really injure the inventor's secret, because that secret consists *principally* in a knowledge of the proportions of these substances, and in the method and process of preparation."

The Court of Appeal seems to us to have pretty well given itself away by that word "*principally*," which we have italicised. If the Courts are not justified in depriving a medicine-maker of his secret, they are surely not justified in insisting on knowing a fifth, a fourth, or a third of his secret. It is difficult to understand why any one part of his secret rather than any other part should be inviolable. But these are questions of law. As a matter of fact, it is impossible for any pharmacist to admit the contention that, given the ingredients of a specified medicine, there would be any difficulty left in com-

pounding it. Not once in a hundred times would the proportions or the method of preparation offer any practical obstacles to the production of imitations by men having the most elementary skill in their profession. We shall watch with interest the judgment of the Cour de Cassation on this point.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOKE.

Chemists will doubtless learn with interest that a chemical known prior to Dioscorides has recently been resuscitated for the benefit of practitioners of the modern black art. The following is extracted from a report of the establishment of the "Bromesbury Camera Club," which appeared in *Photography* of December 14 last. After mentioning, with full detail, the organisation of the club and the exhibition of some new apparatus, &c., it is added:—

"Dr. Burton Cox said he had lately been experimenting on the lines of Colonel Waterhouse, with the addition to the developer of various little-known substances, and if he had nothing revolutionary to tell them as to his results, he had certainly had some interesting experiences to relate. Perhaps the most promising effects had been produced by the addition of hydroxyl-monohydride in varying proportions. He found that a large addition had a decided slowing action, but in moderate quantities its action was very beneficial, especially in enabling the developers to flow freely, and he should now be very sorry to develop a plate without it. Perhaps the best way to employ it was to use it to make up the stock solution of pyrogallie acid with the addition of sulphite. It might be produced by treating anhydrous hydroxyl with nascent hydrogen, the reaction at a high temperature being very energetic, and the result being the pure compound. The commercial article was frequently contaminated with chlorine or carbonic acid in combination with some of the calcium salts, so he advised those who wished to use it to make it themselves. The yellow tint sometimes seen in the home-made article was due to organic matter in solution, but it had no deleterious effect. It should be used freshly prepared, as if kept it underwent decomposition with the liberation of ammonia. He passed round a number of negatives developed by it, and which were much admired."

Photographers who were able to work out the molecular construction of hydroxyl-monohydride have indulged in mild sniggers at the paragraph, and the editor now wishes he had not printed it.

RUBIDIUM IODIDE PATENTED.

We noted the other week that rubidium iodide had been highly recommended as a substitute for other alkaline iodides in therapeutics. It has since come under our notice that an English patent was granted in 1892 to H. Erdmann, Haale-on-Saale University, Germany, for the use of rubidium iodide as a remedy for syphilis, intumescence of the glands, and other maladies. This patent is still in force. We do not know what Mr. Erdmann's object was in patenting a fact in therapeutics, but certainly a course more effectual for stopping the use of the medicine could scarcely have been taken. What value can such a patent be to anyone? If every medical man who prescribes rubidium iodide wishes to act strictly according to the law, he should first obtain Mr. Erdmann's gracious permission to write the prescription.

UNDECORATED APOTHEKERS.

At this year's great annual distribution of "honours" (*i.e.*, appointments to certain orders) which takes place in Prussia as it does at home, only more so, 1,720 persons were decorated with something or another. Nine-tenths of the decorations went to high officials and military men, whereat the *Pharmaceutische Zeitung* loyally but unmistakably expresses its disgust. It is not fair, our contemporary thinks, that distinguished civilians outside official circles should only get between them one ribbon, cross, or star out of every ten. "The number of German pharmacists in business who, according to the last Pharmaceutical Calendar, possess de-

corations of any kind is extremely small," says the *Zeitung*, and it not obscurely hints that the profession would receive more tokens of Royal favour if it were not that the military men and officials are more powerful at Court. No one who knows the high scientific distinction of numbers of German pharmacists, and admits the desirability of decorations will deny that they have not their fair share of such honours. The apothekers, however, may console themselves with the knowledge that among the 1,720 individuals, upon whom the last decoration-shower has descended, the great majority no doubt know that the distribution was conducted upon the same principle which made Palmerston think so highly of the Garter—"There is no darned nonsense of merit about it." We have similar experience in Britain.

PROJECTED BELGIAN PHARMACEUTICAL CONGRESS.

Early in 1896 the Belgian Pharmaceutical Society will celebrate its jubilee. "Fifty years will then have passed, messieurs," said the Secretary at the last meeting, "since a few gallant colleagues, assembled at the Waux-Hall, founded the Association of which we are the modest continuators. It is customary, messieurs, to celebrate anniversaries such as this, and for a scientific society like ours a congress is the accepted form of celebration!" Wherefore a congress is to be held, and a committee was appointed to consider "what could be undertaken without absolutely ruining the social coffers." Only, as there is to be an exhibition in Brussels in 1895, that year, instead of the chronologically accurate one, was selected as the time for which to convene the congress.

THE AMERICAN VIEW.

The reception of Mr. N. H. Martin's paper on American pharmacy, and its education, &c., as far as can at present be judged, is favourable rather than otherwise. The *Pharmaceutical Era* receives the criticism in a temperate spirit.

A number of Mr. Martin's strictures, says the *Era*, are well warranted, we must admit, by the conditions existing in this country; others are a little too severe, resulting from observation, which could not, under the circumstances, have been other than rather superficial. His criticisms, on the whole, will certainly be useful. . . . His estimates of the boards of pharmacy are, we believe, lower than they would be with fuller acquaintance, and he seems also to underestimate the support that our pharmacists in general give to the colleges which require extended laboratory instruction (and there are such).

The *Alumni Report* of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, which may be regarded as the free-lance of the college, does not mince matters, and goes for Mr. Martin badly, heading its article "Stone-throwing from glass houses." After pointing out what it considers errors of fact in Mr. Martin's paper, the *Report* proceeds to answer him in the Scotch style:—

Are the means of pharmaceutical education afforded in Liverpool, Edinburgh (*sic*), Dublin, Newcastle, Sheffield, or elsewhere in Great Britain, equal to the curriculum furnished by the Pharmaceutical Society's school in Bloomsbury Square? Further than this, why are all the schools in London itself on a still less uniform basis? Hence, it may be pertinently asked, until pharmaceutical education is on a uniform basis in the "tight little island," with its 121,000 square miles, how does Mr. Martin expect a country with 3,500,000 square miles to have uniformity?

The *Report* proceeds to deal with the allegations regarding quiz-classes and practical instruction, and says:—

It must be a cause of regret that such a staunch friend of pharmaceutical education as Mr. Martin appears to be should not have visited the colleges of pharmacy in the United States during a working session. One might as well, by looking into the laboratory of the late Professor John Tyndall at 4 o'clock in the morning, have formed an idea of the services he rendered to his generation, as to stroll through colleges of pharmacy during vacation, in the dog-days of August, when no work whatever is going on.

When all is said, however, the *Report* comes to the conclusion that "the strictures in which President Martin has indulged cannot fail to do good," but adds a hint that Britishers should set their own house in order.

A DRASTIC PHARMACY LAW.

Kentucky, U.S.A., has amended its pharmacy law, and according to the *Pharmaceutical Era*, it comes out strong. The sale and dispensing of poisons is confined to registered pharmacists. The list of poisons includes Paris green, proprietary or secret medicines sold or advertised as emmenagogues or parturients, and all that are known to contain a large proportion of opium or other powerful narcotic. Every druggist is required to register sales of poisons, and is not allowed to sell without being satisfied that the buyer is of lawful age and knows the danger of the poison bought, and is buying it for a legitimate use. The law also provides penalties for the addition or removal of any ingredient from any drug, medicine or chemical preparation, for the purpose of adulteration, substitution or alteration, which shall detract from the quality, commercial value or medicinal effect, if the same is done without informing the purchaser and writing the words "adulterated," "altered" or "substituted" upon the package. Any medicine or drug used after becoming inert from exposure or age shall be deemed a substitution. The law also renders obligatory the filing and serial numbering of physicians' prescriptions, and says "the pharmacist shall furnish a duplicate of any prescription on the application or order of the attending physician."

Trade Notes.

"FAME" lets out a little secret about Mr. Geo. T. Fulford's advertising schemes. We have told how Mr. Fulford came to England, and what he resolved to do for Dr. Williams's Pink Pills for Pale People. *Fame* now says that he has done it, and more. The results of his first advertising contracts have been "such that he has now decided to take up his abode permanently in England, and has just given out contracts through the same firm for four times as much advertising as before, and the advertisements will be continued on this scale as a minimum this year."

ONE of the proofs of the influence of the late Sir Andrew Clark within his profession has been shown by the *Lancet*, which a few weeks ago published a lecture which Sir Andrew had delivered at the London Hospital in 1892 on "The Treatment of Fibroid Lung Disease." We notice that Messrs. Allen & Hanburys have turned this to good account, for in the lecture the eminent physician spoke of "bydol" and "bynin" as "two good nutritive agents," their use being specially indicated in those almost hopeless cases of lung-disease which are accompanied by extreme nutritive debility. In these cases, Sir Andrew said in his aphoristic style, Messrs. Allen & Hanburys' preparations help the patient to "walk in the way of physiological righteousness."

New Company.

THE NEW PREMIER MEDICAL AID AND INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).—Capital 50,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To provide medical appliances, to carry on the business of a medical aid association and agency, and to carry on business as insurance company, &c. The first subscribers (who take one share each) are:—E. Ford, St John's Hill, S.W.; J. H. Shurrock, 7 Seymour Road, N. accountant; A. H. Lloyd, Brixton, S.W., cashier; G. Ramsey Forest Gate, clerk; H. Leech, 23 Bayston Road, N., accountant; W. H. Still, 54 Cavendish Road, N., mariner; E. T. Hopkins, 45 Farleigh Road, N. The first directors are to be determined by the subscribers; qualification, 100*l.*; remuneration, 300*l.* per annum, divisible, and 10 per cent. after a 6-per-cent. dividend has been paid.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re HENRY E. MORTON, 81 Finsbury Park Road, N., Patent-medicine Vendor.

THIS debtor attended at the London Bankruptcy Court on January 26, before Mr. Registrar Brougham, for his public examination upon accounts showing total liabilities 418*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, and a deficiency of 398*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* This is the debtor who attributes his failure to the action for an injunction brought against him by Mr. Alabone, his former employer. He was questioned at some length by Mr. Young, who represented a creditor, respecting the issue of his book and some testimonials contained therein. He was also asked regarding a drug called "Lachnanthes." The debtor said his agents had the entire monopoly of the drug, and they held the whole of last year's crop. He did not think there was more than 1*l.* worth of it in England, although the name appeared in all the Pharmacopœias. The examination was ordered to be concluded.

Re C. A. DASNIERES, 16 Philpot Lane, E.C., Merchant.

At a sitting of the London Bankruptcy Court, held before Mr. Registrar Giffard last Wednesday, this bankrupt was allowed to pass his public examination upon accounts showing debts 2,232*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, ranking against assets 244*l.* 3*s.* In the course of the evidence, the bankrupt stated that he had been in business for many years as a merchant dealing in chemicals. He commenced at Liverpool in 1871, and subsequently extended his business to London, Antwerp and Paris. The Antwerp branch was disposed of in June last, and the business at Paris was relinquished in the following September. He ascribed his failure to loss on trading and bad debts.

Re GEORGE DOBSON, Cardiff, Chemical Manufacturer.

THIS debtor came up for his public examination at the Cardiff Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday, before Mr. Registrar Langley. The debtor, examined by Mr. Orr, deputy Official Receiver, stated that he had carried on business for some years as a chemical manufacturer. His statement showed liabilities 2,805*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and assets, which consisted of shares and debentures, 1,495*l.* He had not had the shares and debentures because the contract under which they were to be handed to him had not been completed.

Mr. Orr: So that practically you have no assets?

Debtor: I suppose that is so, at present. Debtor admitted that he was in difficulties in 1887, when his liabilities amounted to over 4,000*l.* A composition of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound was then accepted, and he continued business. His books of accounts were posted up to the end of February, 1893, when he transferred his business to a limited company. They were, however, only posted in pencil. He had had no balance-sheet since December, 1890. He contracted to sell his business for 5,000*l.* to a limited company at the end of November, 1892. That was owing partly to his financial position, and partly to the state of his health. He had no account except a ledger to show whether he was solvent or not. He was to receive 2,250*l.* in cash, and 2,750*l.* in shares, but when the company found they were not doing so well as they expected, they arranged to give him 250*l.* in cash, 2,000*l.* in debentures, and the rest in shares. Some of the shares handed over to him he had negotiated. The company had paid to him and to his creditors 900*l.* The cause of his failure was his inability to realise the shares. It was true that he had stated on March 9, 1893, that his assets were 1,429*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* in excess of his liabilities. That would have been correct if his shares and debentures had been sold at their face value. His profits in 1890 were 600*l.*

Mr. Orr: If you were making 600*l.* a year profit, why did you transfer your business to a company under which you were only to get 400*l.* a year as manager?

Debtor: I could not ask more than 400*l.* a year as manager.

The Registrar said the debtor ought to explain how his assets in March, 1893, were 1,429*l.* over liabilities. He must make out a proper profit-and-loss account. The examination was adjourned.

DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT.

Lapworth, Henry, 29 Osborne Road, Acton, mineral-water manufacturer. Trustee, Oscar Berry, Monument House, Monument Square, E.C. (C.A.). Dated, January 12; filed, January 18. Unsecured liabilities, 438*l.* 8*s.*; estimated net assets, 133*l.* 10*s.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	s.	d.
Barnett & Foster, London	25	0
Bush, W. J., & Co., London	30	0
Cherin, Fulham Pottery	11	7
Hargreaves, Acton	100	0
Lapworth, T., London	60	0
Thornley, T., near Ashbourne	50	0
Rylands, D., Barnsley	90	0
Rent	17	10

Wright, Joseph, High Street, Marske-by-the-Sea, drug-dealer.—This debtor has executed a deed of arrangement, from which it appears that the unsecured liabilities amount to 175*l.*, and the assets are estimated to realise 92*l.* The trustee under the deed is Mr. Frank Brown, accountant, Stockton-on-Tees.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Deacon, W. B., Benson, H. T., and O'Connor, E. M. H., under the style of Deacon, Benson & O'Connor, Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, physicians, surgeons, and general medical practitioners, so far as regards W. B. Deacon.

Gommersall, S., and Gommersall, A., aerated-water manufacturers, Tingley, West Ardsley, near Wakefield, under the style of Gommersall Brothers.

Lindsay, W. H., and Wright, F. E., aerated-water manufacturers Belle Vue, near Wakefield, under the style of Lindsay & Wright.

Scholes, J. B., and Dobson, G., chemical manufacturers, Quarndon, Huddersfield, under the style of Scholes, Dobson & Co.

Wightwick, F. P., and Thompson, S. R., surgeons and medical practitioners, Horsleydown, under the style of Wightwick & Thompson.

Business Changes

MR. FREDERICK WILLIAM DYER, pharmaceutical chemist, has taken over the business at 45 Fore Street, Gorebridge, carried on there by his late father for 67 years.

THERE have been several changes in Kettering during the last few weeks. Mr. J. H. Moore, having retired, has sold his business at the corner of Gold and Silver Streets to Messrs. Hitchman & Son, who are continuing this as a branch establishment. Mr. Moore's second business, on the Rockingham Road, has been taken by Mr. Thursfield, jun., son of Mr. J. H. Thursfield, chemist, of Market Place. Mr. Denston, who for many years has been in business, now retires, and his place of business has been secured by Boots (Limited), who are opening this week.

MESSRS. JOHN BROAD & SON, of 1 Hornsey Rise Gardens, N., ask us to state that the paragraph we published a fortnight since under this heading, to the effect that Mr. Edmunds, chemist, Luton, had purchased their business, is totally unfounded. They say, "We have not disposed of our business nor any portion of it to Mr. Edmunds or anyone else, but we have simply transferred it to the above address from 510 Hornsey Road." Mr. Edmunds informs us in reply to our inquiry that he did not buy the business, but that he has taken the premises at 510 Hornsey Road, and that he is opening a new chemist's business there. Our original information came from an outside source.

ABRASTOL is a new antiseptic used for the preservation of wines. It is the sulphate of beta-naphthol combined with calcium, and can be detected in wine by decomposing with dilute HCl, calcium carbonate, sulphuric acid, and beta-naphthol being formed.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

WE have received from the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain the following list of candidates who were successful at the First examination held on January 9:—

Alexander, T. B., South Shields
 Allison, J. R. B., Retford
 Andrews, P., Retford
 Armstrong, G. B. N., Chatteris
 Austen, B. G., Southampton
 Banbridge, H., Wisbech
 Barker, T. H., Birmingham
 Barnes, G. H., Manchester
 Batten, H. E., Ilminster
 Bawcutt, F. F., London
 Beech, T., Knutsford
 Bennett, E. H. G., Bristol
 Bennie, J. W., Paisley
 Betts, W. M., Towcester
 Beynon, J. T., Carmarthen
 Black, J. E., Glasgow
 Blakely, P. L., Bournemouth
 Bowman, J. R. Y., Leith
 Brewis, J. C., West Hartlepool
 Brian, E., Macclesfield
 Buchan, W., Kirkcaldy
 Cairns, J., Glasgow
 Carlton, W. E., Gosberton
 Carter, A. J., Congleton
 Chapman, F. T., Crowle
 Chapman, J. E., Sunningdale
 Clark, S. J. H., London
 Clement, W. H., Barnstaple
 Cope, R., Leek
 Craig, W. R., Glasgow
 Craven, J. S., Wakefield
 Crawford, J., Stirling
 Cruikshank, J., Edinburgh
 Cruise, H. D., London
 Darke, T. A. L., Totnes
 Davidson, A., Leslie
 Davies, J., Swansea
 Davies, T. H., Crugbybar
 Davies, W. G., New Quay
 Dawson, J. M., Middleham
 Doughton, S. D., Aberystwith
 Doughty, J. E., Birmingham
 Durie, P., Edinburgh
 Dyet, G. C., Larkhall
 Earl, F. G., Eccles
 Ellisson, M. D., Hoyland
 Evans, D. W., Trelech
 Ewbank, H., Douglas
 Ferguson, D., Kineraig
 Fidler, S. J., Southport
 Finlay, D. P., Morningside
 Finmore, H., Seighford
 Ford, W., Ashton-on-Ribble
 Forrest, T. B., Carlisle
 Foulis, D., Edinburgh
 French, F. A., Darlington
 Furber, J., Bowes Park
 Furniss, A. S., Liverpool
 Farnivall, J. F., Cardiff
 Garbett, C., Halifax
 Garforth, J. A., Manchester
 Garside, A. W., Ormskirk
 George, W. F., Stockton
 Giles, F., Folkestone
 Godding, T., Cambridge
 Godolphin, G. T., London
 Goodwin, E. H., Hammersmith
 Greenfield, H. H., Goole
 Griffin, W. J., Birmingham
 Griffiths, M. L., Llangadock
 Grimshaw, P. G., Hull
 Guest, G. E., South Hindley
 Hadden, G., Coulter
 Haigh, William, Clayton
 Harbottle, D., Whitechurch
 Harmer, G. C., Eastbourne

Hearier, H. N., Plymouth
 Henderson, W. J. C., Fraserburgh
 Hendry, J., Edinburgh
 Hey, F. C., York
 Hicks, A. F., Farnham
 Hill, J., Hawick
 Hodgkinson, J., Macclesfield
 Hollington, F. P., Tottenham
 Horsley, P. J., London
 Huddart, J. W., Cockermouth
 Hyde, J. E., Christchurch
 Ingham, H., Padilham
 Jackson, D., Wednesbury
 Jackson, H. A., Cheadle
 Jamieson, G. C., Selkirk
 Jefferiss, R. F., Chatham
 Jenkin, C., St. Ansell
 Jenkins, G. R., Swansea
 Jenkinson, J. W., Forest Gate
 John, E., Bristol
 John, O., Swansea
 Johnston, J., Belfast
 Jones, H. H., Llanrwst
 Jones, W. E., Ruabon
 Kerr, G. H., Sunderland
 King, F. H., Ashford
 Land, J. H. M., Derby
 Lawrence, F., Broad Clyst
 Lawrence, W. L., Carlisle
 Lewis, F., Shrewsbury
 Macadie, W., East Watten
 McCutcheon, A., Glasgow
 Macdonald, W., Earliston
 McFarlane, G., Glasgow
 Mackay, C., Manningham
 McLaren, W., Arbroath
 Mangau, G., Rothiemay
 Martin, A. C., Edinburgh
 Martin, J., Crieff
 Meister, F. J., Edinburgh
 Melville, J., Fraserburgh
 Middleton, R. E., Roundhay
 Milne, P., Inver
 Mitchell, J. A., Penistone
 Mitchell, J. R., Chester-le-Street
 Monks, E. K., Bristol
 Moore, F. A., London
 Moore, F. W., Ashbourne
 Morgan, H., Twickenham
 Morris, J., Llansilin
 Mossop, M., Maryport
 Moule, W. A. C., Redditch
 Munshet, R., Kilmarnock
 Nicol, W. G., Portsoy
 Park, R., Glasgow
 Paterson, R. S., Bonnyrigg
 Peck, A. N., Newmarket
 Peterkin, J., Lossiemouth
 Phillips, W., Bewdley
 Pritchard, F. C., Westbury-on-Trym
 Pugh, J. J. E., Leominster
 Rae, T., Maryhill
 Rees, W. E. J., Pontypridd
 Reid, J. A., Ellon
 Ritchie, D. W., Kilmarnock
 Roberts, W. E., Portmadoc
 Robertson, W. G., Birmingham
 Robson, V. H., Carlisle
 Ross, J., Maryport
 Rutherford, J., Edinburgh
 Samuel, H., Leighton Buzzard
 Sanders, J. F., Ilminster
 Saunders, J. G., Liverpool
 Sawdon, G. W., Whitby
 Siminon, E., Warmminster
 Simpson, M. G., Buxton

Skinner, J. A., Leith
 Smith, M. G., London
 Smith, W., Thorpe Hesley
 Staite, W. H. V., Ford
 Stansfield, W., Southport
 Steward, A. W., Sydenham
 Stewart, F. G., Pathhead
 Stuchbury, F., London
 Swindale, J., Blackhill
 Taylor, Archie, Greenock
 Taylor, J. P., Glasgow
 Taylor, S., Whitby
 Tew, A. W., Warwick
 Thomas, H. C., London
 Thompson, E., Cartmel
 Thompson, R. H., London
 Todd, J. W., Leicester

Tolmie, W. J., Stornoway
 Trotter, G. C., Edinburgh
 Turner, H., Derby
 Urwin, A., South Shields
 Watkin, L. W., Borth
 Watson, T. M., Spilsby
 Watt, H. E., West Hartlepool
 West, H. D., Keighley
 Westlake, W. V., Melksham
 Williams, A., Hayle
 Williams, E. A., Chester
 Wilson, W. F., Downham
 Womersley, J. G., Bradford
 Wray, R. J., Liverpool
 Wright, R. R., Thirsk
 Yeo, J. H. A., Liverpool

Practical Notes and Formulae.

ORANGE BITTERS.

Gentian	..	..	..	..	..	3ss.
Chiretta	..	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Cusparia	..	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Ginger	..	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Fresh lemon-peel	..	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Orange wine	..	..	..	..	..	3xxxij.

Macerate ten days, and filter.

CARMEL MONK'S LIQUEUR.

Angelica-root	..	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Aniseed	..	..	..	..	..	3xj.
Lemon-peel	..	..	..	..	..	3vj.
Coriander-seed	..	..	..	..	..	3x.
Nutmeg	..	..	..	..	..	3viij.
Fresh marjoram leaves and flowers	..	..	..	..	..	3vj.
Fresh melissa-leaves	..	..	..	..	..	3l.
Cloves	..	..	..	..	..	3viij.
Fresh rosemary leaves and flowers	..	..	..	..	..	3x.
Fresh sage leaves and flowers	..	..	..	..	..	3xiv.
Fresh thyme	..	..	..	..	..	3vj.
Fresh hyssop	..	..	..	..	..	3vj.
Cinnamon	..	..	..	..	..	3x.
Proof spirit	..	..	..	..	..	Cong. xijj.

Macerate for three days, then distil 10 gallons, and to the distillate add 10 gallons of simple syrup (1 in 2).

WINDOW-POLISHING PASTE.

	Oz.
Castile soap	2
Boiling water	3
Dissolve, and add the following in fine powder:—	
Precipitated chalk	4
French chalk	3
Tripoli	2
Mix, and reduce with water to the consistency desired.	

SEVEN SUTHERLAND SISTERS' HAIR-GROWER.

New Idea says the following formula produces a preparation closely resembling the original:—

Bay rum	..	..	..	..	..	3vij.
Distilled witch-hazel	..	..	..	..	..	3ix.
Common salt	..	..	..	..	..	3j.
Hydrochloric acid (5-per-cent.)	..	..	..	..	..	1 drop
Magnesia	..	..	..	..	..	A sufficiency

Mix the bay rum and distilled witch-hazel, and shake with a little magnesia; filter, and in the filtrate dissolve the salt and add the hydrochloric acid.

FOR THE REMOVAL OF WARTS

Dr. Morison, of Baltimore, prescribes the following as an application:—

Hydrarg. bichlor.	..	..	..	..	gr. v.
Ac. salicyl.	..	..	..	..	3j.
Collodii	..	..	..	..	3j.

To be applied once a day, the upper crust of a previous application being removed before a fresh one is made. Four such applications generally soften the wart to such a degree that gentle traction removes it painlessly, the further dressing being any simple ointment.

Foreign and Colonial News.

DIED IN HIS SHOP.—Thomas Whittingham, chemist, carrying on business in the Arcade, Dunedin, was found dead in his shop in December. He had not been seen about since a Saturday, and the shop not being opened on Monday, the police burst open the door, and found Whittingham dead, leaning against the sofa. He was an elderly man, and is believed to have died from natural causes.

MINING CHEMICALS FREED FROM DUTY IN CHILI.—A decree was published in the *Official Gazette* of Chili on November 2, declaring that cyanide of potassium "and other similar substances" may be imported duty free, a Bill granting this exemption having been passed through Congress, on the petition of the representative of the Capell Gold-extracting Company, as an encouragement to gold-mining in Chili.

ADVERTISING AT GERMAN RAILWAY-STATIONS.—In order to assist in the provision of funds to meet the increasing expenses of the German army, a Bill has recently been passed through the Reichstag authorising the exhibition of advertisements at the stations of the German State Railways. Messrs. Dixon & Hunting, of 65 Chancery Lane, London, have been appointed agents for these advertisements for the United Kingdom.

A TOLUOL THERMOMETER.—A toluol thermometer has been patented in Germany, of which it is hoped that it will replace both the mercury and the spirit thermometer. As with the latter, the indicating substance in the toluol thermometer can be coloured with aniline; it is much cheaper than mercury, less objectionable in manufacture, and possesses five times the power of expansion of quick-silver. Toluol freezes at -50°C . and boils at $+170^{\circ}$.

DISPENSING IN BAGDAD.—According to the U.S. Consul at Bagdad, who is a medical man, dispensing is not very elegant there. If a prescription is sent to a druggist's it will probably be put up in an old unwashed cod-liver oil bottle that has lain for months in some dirty corner, and then an old rag and some paper are made to do service as a cork. Yet that is a place where the percentage on prescriptions system has been developed and refined to a very high level.

WOMEN AS STUDENTS IN GERMANY.—The German universities, which have long kept their doors closed against the admission of women, are now beginning to put them ajar. The Natural Science Faculty of Heidelberg was the first to admit female students to its lectures, and now the Faculty of Philosophy of the same university has adopted a resolution that there exists no objection in principle against the acquisition by female students of the doctor's degree. The lady with respect to whose application this decision was come to will therefore be admitted to the examination.

THE PRICE OF ANTIPYRIN.—German apothekers are somewhat dissatisfied at the high prices they have to pay for antipyrin. The only kind which may be legally sold in the Empire is Knorr's, patented by Meister, Lucius & Brünig, who are therefore safe in keeping up the price. But in Switzerland Knorr's brand has no patent-rights, and there are several other makers, who have agreed upon a convention price of 72m. per kilo., or about 32s. 6d. per lb. In Austria also the official maximum tax for dispensing antipyrin has just been reduced from 12 kreuzers to 10 kreuzers per gramme, the reason being that the Swiss article answers all the requirements of the Pharmacopœia.

CUTTING IN, BELGIUM.—Co-operative societies are exceedingly powerful in Belgium, and pharmacists suffer much from their existence. A number of Brussels chemists recently agreed to reduce their dispensing charges to what they considered the co-operative societies' level, hoping thereby to regain the failing custom. The journal *Le Mutualiste*, which is a kind of official organ of the co-operators, now publishes in parallel columns the reduced charges of the combined chemists and those of the co-operative pharmacy, showing that even now the former are still about 36 per cent. in advance of the latter. Thus the reduced chemists' prices now run from 1.10f. to 1.50f. for a mixture (8 oz.), those of the co-operative stores from 0.80f. to 1.00f. for the same.

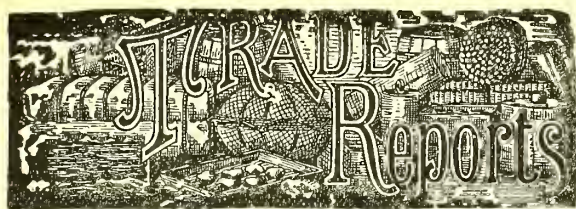
Gargles are quoted at 1.30f. and 0.90f., powders at 1.20f. to 1.35f. and 0.40f. and 0.90f., embrocations 3f. and 1.80f., syrups from 0.50f. to 0.90f. and 0.45f. to 0.50f., respectively.

FAILURE OF AN AMERICAN CHEMICAL-FACTORY.—As already announced in a cablegram in our issue of January 6 (page 28), The Union Chemical-works, of 15 Cedar Street, New York, whose factory is at Newark, N. J., has been placed in the hands of a receiver. One suit for \$31,892 has been begun against the company, and suits for \$150,000 more are threatened. Louis Engelhorn is the president of the company, but he, with Dr. Engelhorn, owned only twenty shares of the stock. A receiver in supplementary proceedings was appointed for Louis Engelhorn three weeks ago. The liabilities are about \$290,000, divided among twenty-seven creditors, the largest ones being, W. H. Ladenburg & Soehne, Mannheim, Germany, \$143,572; Dr. F. Engelhorn, Jr., as transferee of C. F. Boehringer & Soehne, Mannheim, \$51,860; Lazard Frères, \$29,470; J. L. & D. S. Riker, \$26,452, and Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., \$15,509. The assets are placed at \$136,192. All the manufactured stock except \$10,000 is pledged as collateral for advances.

LOWERING OF SPANISH CUSTOMS DUTIES.—Spain has recently concluded treaties of commerce with Switzerland, Sweden, and Norway, under which a large number of articles from those countries will be admitted into Spain at much lower rates of duty than provided for in the minimum tariff. As the United Kingdom's treaty with Spain provides that British goods shall be admitted at the lowest rate granted to any other nation, Britain, of course, profits equally by the new reductions, which include the following:—

	Minimum Tariff		New Reduced Rates	
	Francs per		Francs per	
Extracts for dyeing-purposes ..	100 kilos.	7.80	100 kilos.	5.00
Colours, prepared	"	25.60	"	25.60
Dyes derived from coal-tar and other artificial dyes:—				
In powder or in crystals ..	Kilog.	2.50	Kilog.	1.50
In paste or liquid	"	2.50	"	0.50
Condensed milk	"	1.50	"	0.50
Chocolate	"	1.25	"	1.25
Pastes for soups, alimentary fœcula, bread, and biscuit	100 kilos.	28.00	100 kilos.	20.00
Cod-liver oil, purified for medicinal use	"	3.00	"	2.00
Fish-oil, train-oil, and other animal fats	"	1.00	"	1.00

SIGNOR CRISPI AND THE PHARMACISTS.—The recent return to power of Signor Crispi appears to have been most distasteful to the majority of Italian pharmacists from a business point of view, and the Premier's pharmaceutical policy is sharply criticised in the *Bolletino Chimico Farmaceutico*. Signor Crispi, it appears, cannot be relied upon in the matter of compensation for disturbance of existing interests, which is just now the crucial question with Italian pharmacists; for Italy is passing through the transition-stage between licensed and limited pharmacy and free competition. Until 1888 the number of pharmacies was strictly limited in most parts of the kingdom, the old Duchy of Toscana and the Province of Calabria being exceptions. In 1888 a law throwing the establishment of pharmacies open to all qualified persons was carried through the Legislature in the teeth of the bitter opposition of the protected chemists. A five years' period of grace was allowed to the latter, however, by the proviso that the Act should not come into operation until December 22, 1893. It was also enacted that the training of pharmacists should remain under State control, that the sale and dispensing of medicinal drugs should only be allowed to qualified men, and that pharmacists who had acquired their businesses upon the understanding that they should hold the monopoly should be compensated for its loss. The amount of compensation, however, was never made clear, and the licence-holders are afraid that Signor Crispi, in the present parlous state of the Italian exchequer, cannot be depended upon to redeem this promise. They therefore maintain that until the terms of compensation are fully agreed upon they ought to be allowed to maintain their monopolies; but the pressure of qualified men anxious to start business is so great that it remains very doubtful whether the holders of monopolies will be able to carry their point.



Notice to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable even for manufacturing purposes.

It should also be recollected that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., February 1.

The Dock-charges on Rhubarb and Vanilla.

The grievance of the rhubarb importers against the Dock Company in the matter of the charges made for warehousing and handling the drug, and especially the lower grades of it, has been to some extent removed since attention was called to the matter in a recent issue of this journal. One of the principal rhubarb importers waited upon the Company, CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST in hand, and placed the note in which the overcharge was complained of before the directors. A well-known broker has also remonstrated with the Company, and it is now announced that the dock-charges on rhubarb will be materially reduced in consequence. The charges on vanilla, of which complaint has also been made, will be lowered at the same time.

ACID (BORACIC) is lower. The combination price has been reduced from 40s. to 39s. per cwt., but it is possible to purchase below that figure from outside makers and second-hand holders.

ACID (CITRIC).—Little or no business has been done in this article during the week under review. On the spot 1s. 4½d. per lb. would be accepted.

ACID (GALLIC).—Twopence per pound down. Agents now offer at the rate of 2s. 1d. per lb. for who e-ale quantities.

ACID (OXALIC) has been advanced to 3½d. per lb.

ACID (TARTARIC).—A firm market. Foreign brands are still offering at 10½d. per lb., but the English makers quote 10½d. and 11d. per lb. respectively.

ALOES.—Cape aloes are now coming in freely. Yesterday 148 packages were landed, and at auction 81 cases of recent import were shown. Thirty-six of these sold at almost unaltered prices—namely, 22s. to 22s. 6d. for fine bright hard, 20s. 6d. to 21s. 6d. for fair, and from 19s. down to 16s. per cwt. for more or less drossy quality. Of Curacao aloes, 20 gourds fine pale orange colour imported about four years ago sold cheaply at 50s. per cwt.; 55 boxes in another lot realised 35s. to 37s. for brown and dark mixed partly over-heated, 23s. 6d. for dark glassy capey, and from 11s. down to 5s. for common drossy. Sceletine aloes is again lower, 10 kegs out of a parcel of 110 good bright brown colour partly hard being knocked down cheaply at 75s. per cwt., which is several shillings below the last quotation; another lot, of 87 packages of Zanzibar character in skins, but imported from Bombay, were bought in at 50s. for fair bright, and at 30s. for common dark quality mixed with leaf.

AMBERGRIS.—The article is more or less neglected; a tin of 8½ oz. pale colour and weak flavour was offered to-day and bought in at 70s. per oz., 50s. being refused for it.

ANNATTO.—Still rising. A newly-imported parcel of seed from Madras (18 packages) was offered at auction and bought in at 6d. per lb. A bid of 4½d. per lb. was refused for it. The seed was bright in colour, but damp.

ARECA.—The price still continues to decline. Nine bags of fair quality sold to-day without reserve at 10s. 6d. per cwt.

ASAFOETIDA.—The 22 cases, of which we recently mentioned that they were on the way back from America, were catalogued for sale at to-day's auctions, but they were not actually offered. Of another lot of 13 kegs from Bombay, common stony quality, 5 sold at 20s. per cwt., which marks a decline in value.

BALSAM (COPAIBA).—Several parcels were shown, but all bought in; good thick Maranhão is said to be held at 1s. 9½d., and 47 tins thin pale to brown balsam from Cartagena at 1s. 6d. per lb.

BALSAM (TOLU) is again tending lower. Privately sales have lately been made at 11s. per lb. for fair quality, and a parcel of 6 cases at to-day's auctions sold subject to approval at 10½d. per lb. The offer is not likely to be accepted, however.

BENZOIN.—At to-day's auctions no fine Sumatra gum which is scarce and much inquired for, was offered. Other varieties of Sumatra gum are quite neglected, and of 194 cases sixty-one sold, at 6l. to 6l. 2s. 6d. for good seconds, small to bold almonds in the centre, and false-packed at the sides, 5l. 12s. 6d. for dull seconds, very false packed, and with small grey almonds in the centre, and 90s. for thirds, very false packed, but with bold white almonds in the centre. Ten cases Siam gum were taken out, and 151 cases Palembang also remained unsold, 37s. 6d. per cwt. being asked for fair seconds. Penang gum neglected. Another parcel of 27 cases false packed Sumatra thirds, small grey almonds, sold without reserve to-day at 81s. per cwt., showing a decline in value of a few shillings.

BUCHU.—In considerable supply, and about ½d. cheaper for round leaves; a few bales good bright green selling at 3½d. per lb., although one holder received 3½d. for a fine lot; long leaves were not sold, but bought in at 9d. per lb.

CALUMBA is fairly steady, considering the large quantity on offer. About 64 bags ordinary small dusty and wormy to fair yellowish mixed root sold at from 11s. to 15s. 6d. per cwt., and for fair yellow and grey mixed quality 22s. 6d. per cwt. is asked.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—The market is still declining. China (Formosa) camphor, which is at present the only kind dealt in, is being offered, it is said, at 90s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f. terms, but no business is reported. At auction 271 cases of this variety were bought in at from 100s. to 115s. per cwt. Japan camphor is held too high for business at present. Three tubs were bought in at 130s. per cwt.

CANELLA ALBA.—Eight bales recently imported from New York sold at an advance of 4s. to 5s. per cwt., the article being scarce; small to medium broken pale quilly bark realised 32s. to 32s. 6d. per cwt.

CANNABIS INDICA.—For a parcel of dark brown siftings from Bombay only 1d. per lb. was bid, and refused.

CARDAMOMS sold irregularly, but generally 1d. to 2d. per lb. below last auction rates. Of 192 packages offered only about 50 sold as follows:—Ceylon Mysore, fine medium to bold pale, 3s. 4d.; medium to bold palish grey, 2s. 7d. to 2s. 9d.; small ditto long, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d.; medium brownish, 1s. 10d.; small ditto, 1s. 8d.; small to medium long yellow, 1s. 11d. to 2s. 1d.; small to very small dull grey, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 6d.; brownish partly split and specky, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. per lb. Ceylon Malabar, medium to bold round brownish, 2s. smaller ditto, 1s. 8d.; small brown to fair, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d. per lb. Wild Ceylon bold full, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 3d.; small and lean ditto, from 1s. down to 6d.; and Seed at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. The following figures show the exports of cardamoms from Ceylon between January 1 and December 31:—

	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889
Lbs. ..	401,314	426,710	372,510	422,109	387,940

CASCARA SAGRADA is from 5s. to 6s. lower, a parcel of 59 bales good thin bark from San Francisco being disposed of to-day without reserve. The first lots went at 27s., and gradually the price rose to 29s. Another parcel of 8 bags ordinary stout old quilly bark was bought in at 40s. per cwt. nominally.

CASCARILLA.—This bark, which has not been seen at auction for some time, was represented to-day by a new parcel of 23 bales from New York, which sold with good competition at an advance of about 5s. per cwt., small to medium quilly grey chips at 42s. to 46s., and thin small partly damaged twigs at 24s. 6d. to 35s. per cwt.; 18 casks of fair but very dusty were bought in.

CASSIA FISTULA.—Some of the recent imports of Java cassia pods into Holland have been re-shipped here, and 30 bales were shown to-day. They showed rather lean, partly wormy quality, and one lot was sold at the rate of 27s. per cwt., which is 4s. or 5s. below the last quotation.

CASTORUM.—The next Hudson Bay Company's sale will not be held, we understand, until April, and the quantity to be offered at it will be small; in the meantime several lots are on the market, but they are all held for high prices. About 10 lbs. were shown to-day, and bought in on the basis of 110s. for good but damp seconds.

CEVADILLA.—A complete collapse has taken place in the market position of this drug, which is a favourite article of speculation of a few Hamburg firms, who virtually control the whole of the production in Venezuela. Not very long ago cevadilla stood at the famine-price of 3s. 6d. per lb.; then it fell to 1s. 6d., and now it is offering at 10d. per lb. "c.i.f." terms. Fully 200 packages are on the way from South America, and as the article is a small one this is enough to demoralise the market.

CHIRETTA.—For a new parcel of 31 bales from Calcutta an offer of 3½d. per lb. was refused to-day, owners holding at 6d. per lb. For another lot 4½d. per lb. was suggested.

CHLORAL HYDRATE.—The combined manufacturers have raised their quotations from 3s. 5d. to 3s. 11d. per lb., for crystals in jars, an advance of 6d. per lb., which dates from to-day. This is the price "duty paid"; in bond, 1s. 3d. per lb. less is charged.

CINCHONA.—No lots of any importance were shown at the auctions to-day. For so-called *Calisaya*, in bold flat orange pieces, 1s. 7d. per lb. is asked. The total exports of cinchona from Ceylon during the last five years (January 1 to December 31) have been:—

	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889
Lbs. ..	3,522,522	3,871,325	6,793,320	5,679,339	8,728,836

Our issue of last week was printed a day earlier than usual, and we were therefore unable to publish in it the result of the Java cinchona-bark auction held in Amsterdam on January 25. At that auction no less than 6,128 packages of bark, containing an equivalent of 22,943 kilos. (about 800,000 oz.) of sulphate of quinine were offered. The average quinine-sulphate percentage of the manufacturing bark was 4.61, the richest parcel in sale being one of 18 bales Ledger dust from a private plantation. It analysed 11.93 per cent. s.q., and sold at 43½ cents per half-kilo., or, say, 7½d. per lb., Amsterdam terms. The average unit price obtained was 3.95 cents per half kilo. This shows an improvement in price, which would, no doubt, have been greater had the quantity offered been less excessive. The tone throughout the auctions was firm, 21,117 kilos. of quinine, or about 92 per cent. of the quantity offered, being sold. The following were the principal buyers:—Gustav Briegleb (6,398 kilos. quinine); W. Schöffner & Co., Rotterdam (5,909 kilos.); d'Ailly & Sons (3,612 kilos.); Louet Feisser (2,214 kilos.); Amsterdam Quinine-works (2,195 kilos.); J. de Ligst (495 kilos.); smaller buyers (294 kilos.).

Of pharmaceutical bark a large quantity, consisting almost entirely of medium-size *succirubra* quill, was offered. The demand for this bark is slack, and the market is in danger of over-supply. Only very fine quill barks stand any chance of realising a fair price.

CINNAMON.—A sale of 100 bales, "half thirds and half fourths," for February–April shipment, has been reported at 5½d. per lb., c.i.f. terms.

CLOVES.—The market for Zanzibar cloves is very firm. At auction on Wednesday, 382 packages were offered, and nearly all sold at 2½d. per lb. for fair. The market closes steady with sales at 2½d. per lb. for January–March delivery.

COCA-LEAVES.—No parcels of importance were offered to-day. For thin broken green *Truxillo*-leaves, of good flavour, 9d. per lb. is asked.

COCCULUS INDICUS.—For a parcel of 21 bags a bid of 6s. 6d. per cwt. was declined.

CRUTON-SEED is going down in price, 10 bags of fair quality selling to-day at 24s. 6d. to 25s. per cwt.

CUBEBS.—Slow of sale, lower prices only would tempt buyers. No less than 217 packages were offered at to-day's auctions, and all bought in at prices ranging from 57s. 6d. to 80s. for mouldy, small and partly stalky and dusty to good brown berries; 29 bales stalk sold at 12s. per cwt., and 9 bales dust at 13s. per cwt., both being bargains.

CUMIN SEED.—Good and fine grades of Malta seed remain steady at 38s. to 39s., but at to-day's auctions a twelve-bag lot of dark seed was sold without reserve at a heavy decline in value—viz., 26s. per cwt. Two serons dull grey seed from *Morocco* sold at the low rate of 10s. per cwt.

CUSCUS.—Eight bales fair root from Bombay sold at 15s. per cwt.

ERGOT OF RYE.—The market is neglected, with heavy supplies. Of *Spanish* ergot 61 bags were shown to-day; the price for good bold quality is still nominally 1s. 1d. per lb., but it is difficult to find buyers at that figure, and at the sales 5 bags rather small ergot sold at the reduced figure, of 11½d. to 11¾d. per lb. For 10 bags of very good *German* ergot 1s. 2d. is asked.

FENNEL-SEED.—A parcel of 40 bags *East Indian* sold to-day at 16s. 6d. per cwt.

GALLS (PERSIAN).—The market is quiet, with small sales of fair green *Bassorah* at 47s. per cwt. Blues are held at 55s. to 56s. per cwt.

GAMBOGE.—There was a large supply of this gum at to-day's auctions, and as holders showed themselves anxious to realise, nearly the whole of it (56 out of 57 cases) was sold, at a decline of from 10s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt., viz., *Singapore*, fine picked orange pipe of good fracture, realised 11l. 15s.; ditto, slightly damp and partly run, from 11l. 5s. to 11l. 10s.; run and broken pipe of good orange colour, 10l. 10s.; good small pickings, 9l. 10s. to 9l. 12s. 6d. per cwt. *Saigon*, small to bold, partly rice, dull pipe, 9l. 7s. 6d. to 9l. 10s.; bold lump, of dull grey fracture and coat, 8l. 15s.; mixed dull pickings, 8l. 17s. 6d. per cwt.

GENTIAN.—For 5 bags of fair quality from Bordeaux, 14s. 6d. per cwt. was accepted.

GINGER.—The decline in *Cochin* ginger has at last been arrested. New crop washed *Cochin* root sold at auction on Wednesday, at 32s. 6d. (one lot at 33s.) per cwt., showing a steady market. Ordinary *B cut* root realised 55s. per cwt.

GUM ACACIA.—Almost the only variety offered to-day consisted of *Sudan* sorts, which are difficult to sell even at reduced rates. The supply to-day was all bought in at from 42s. to 50s. per cwt. Of *Trieste* gum 13 cases were shown, and sold without reserve at low prices—namely, 67s. to 69s. for small to bold dull grey drop, 55s. for small yellow grain, 34s. for fine white dust, and 30s. for yellow dust. At last Thursday's gum auctions 45 bales *Sudan* sorts sold at reduced values—viz., 50s. for soft pale sifted, 42s. to 42s. 6d. for small hard reddish; 48s. for amber pickings, and 36s. to 40s. per cwt. for soft brown pickings. *Bombay* gums were from 3s. to 4s. lower.

GUM KINO.—Fine bright kino is still almost as scarce as ever. At to-day's auctions one case of a very astringent grey gum from Bombay catalogued as kino was withdrawn.

GUM TRAGACANTH.—Very quiet. Small sales of pale *Smyrna* seconds have lately been made at 11l. 10s., and second to fair pale *Bassorah* hog gum has realised 75s. to 90s. per cwt.

HONEY sold cheaply to-day, *Chilian* especially, which was from 3s. to 4s. lower; 20 barrels candied fair palish in colour realising only 30s. per cwt. There is probably no more of this kind to be had at such low rates. A parcel of 200 cases half-liquid pale orange *Californian* honey was bought in; and of *Jamaica*, 9 barrels sold cheaply without reserve at 26s. to 27s. for thick treacly brown, 23s. for rather dark ditto, and 17s. 6d. for common dark.

INSECT FLOWERS.—A somewhat excited market is reported from *Trieste*. The price is now so low that very little

demand, or a prospective slight crop—shortage would suffice to improve the position of the drug materially, and there are expectations that an upward movement may occur as soon as the season's demand sets in.

IPECACUANHA.—Of *Brazilian* (Rio root) 80 bales were shown to-day, of which only 7 sold with some difficulty at steady prices for good stout brown native picked, which realised 7s. per lb., but at a decline of about 6d. on more ordinary qualities, common lean to medium. Sound realised 4s. 3d. to 4s. 10d., fair annulated damaged 5s. 3d., common damaged 3s. 1d. to 3s. 10d. per lb. *Colombian* (Cartagena root) is also neglected, the 25 bags offered to-day were all bought in with the exception of one, which sold at 4s. 6d. per lb. for stout to slightly damaged root.

JALAP.—At our drug-auctions to-day not a single package was offered, and there was therefore no means of publicly testing the market.

KAMALA.—Fair quality is held for 1s., but no bids were made at auction to-day even at 9d. per lb.

KOLA.—In good demand, especially for fine quantities which realise high prices. Only ordinary grades were shown to-day, and of 34 bags 15 sold at 9d. for fair brown and from 6d. down to 3d. per lb. for ordinary dark wormy and chips.

KOUSSO.—Fine koussou, in bundles, was not shown to-day. Two bales dull loose flowers from Alexandria were bought in at 9d. per lb., and another one-bale lot at 1s. per

LIQUORICE.—Good Spanish root (natural) in bundles is quoted at 25s. per cwt. for first and 20s. for second quality.

MENTHOL still tending downwards. On the spot there are now sellers at 18s. per lb., and these are open to discuss lower offers. We also hear that a parcel, due next week, is offering at 16s. per lb. c.i.f. terms, but have not been able to confirm that report.

MUSK.—Quite neglected and difficult to sell. Of *Tonquin* pods first pile 21 packages were shown to-day; these were all bought in at 65s. for good well-trimmed thin blue and grey skin and underskin slightly damp, and 50s. for old-fashioned well-trimmed dry. Two caddies however were sold; they showed very small and broken dull partly wormy pods well-trimmed with top and underskin and of poor flavour; bidding began at 23s. and advanced to 31s. per oz., at which the lots were sold; of second pile pods one tin small to bold well-trimmed but skinny sold at 35s.; 13 tins all third pile pods were all bought in.

MUSK-SEED.—Fifteen bags were bought in to-day at 6½d. per lb.

MYRRH.—Slow of sale, although firmly held. Of 37 bales shown to-day 5 sold at 51s. per cwt. for small siftings and 37s. per cwt. for ordinary pickings. For good London-picked gum 8l. per cwt. is asked, while good pale sorts are held for 85s. per cwt.

NUX VOMICA quiet. A parcel of 43 bags dark grey seed sold at 9s. 6d. per cwt. this week.

OIL (COD-LIVER).—Reports from Norway state that up to the present the catch of cod has been unsatisfactory and the livers are lean, but it is far too early in the season yet to draw any conclusion concerning the probable course of the market from these statements. A little of the new oil is expected in London this week. The price for best non-freezing remains 65s. c.i.f. terms per barrel.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—The following figures relate to the exports of the chief essential oils shipped from Ceylon:—

	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889
Citronella (and Lemon-grass)	10,012,097	10,696,781	13,582,026	11,263,581	14,559,075
Cinnamon ..	132,812	140,334	106,304	122,835	103,787

Our market is quiet, and the chief feature to-day was the sale of six cases of 100 lbs. each of *Orange oil* from Paraguay at very low prices, namely, 1½d. rising to 3½d. per lb.; this lot was offered without reserve. Of *Cassia oil* small sales were made of fair quality, unworked, at 3s. 3d. per lb.; and for *Star Anise* 5l. 10s. is asked. Fair *Rose oil* from Bombay is held at 7s. per oz. *Oil of Eucalyptus* in large supply but difficult to sell; for globulus 2s. 6d. per lb. is

asked, other qualities ranging in price down to about 1s. 2d. per lb. Two cases *Cedarwood oil* from America sold at 11½d. per lb., which was rather cheap; and for 9 drums of *Citronella* from Ceylon 10d. per lb. was suggested as the price, but this could not be obtained. For *Cajuput oil* 2s. 9d. per bottle is asked, but privately, we believe, it would be possible to buy much cheaper, and such a price as 2s. 3d. is spoken of for large quantities. Two bottles *English Oil of wormwood* were offered without reserve. Bidding began at 1½d., but quickly rose to 6s. per lb., at which the two *Winchesters* were sold.

OPIUM.—The London market has been quiet lately, although holders remain very firm in their views. The quotations remain 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per lb. for good to fine *Soft-shipping*; 10s. 6d. to 11s. 6d. for ditto *Smyrna*; 9s. to 9s. 6d. for *Druggists' seconds*; and 9s. to 11s. per lb. for *Persian*. Our *Smyrna* correspondent writes, under date of January 20:—"Early this week one of our American buyers offered 9s. 2d. per lb. f.o.b. for current talequale, but holders refused to operate on such terms, and the next day the agents of Messrs. Powers & Weightman, of Philadelphia, offered at the equivalent of 9s. 5d. f.o.b., which was accepted, and about 100 cases exchanged hands. After this our sellers refused to sell, even at 9s. 7d., to the first buyer. Our market is very firm; for the present the figures named will be kept up, and for pressing orders merchants will be obliged to operate on higher terms—say 9s. 10d. to 10s. Very distressing news by telegram has just reached us; the late hard frosts have completely destroyed the opium plantations wherever these are not covered by snow, but the hot sun has melted the snow which covered some districts. We expect high prices in the near future. It is a significant fact that for nearly six months the only buyers on the *Smyrna* market have been American firms. "It almost seems," writes a correspondent, "as if the article had gone out of use in Europe." The arrivals from the opening of the season to January 19 were 1,105 packages against 3,840 in 1892-3.

ORANGE-PEEL is cheaper, 6 packages *Malta* strips selling without reserve at from 6½d. for fair to 7½d. per lb. for good bright quality.

ORRIS.—Dull of sale. Fine pale *Florentine* was again bought in at 100s. per cwt., and for second quality 80s. is asked, but it would not be easy to effect sales at these rates. Another lot of small and yellow root was also bought in at 85s. per cwt.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASSIUM is still being depreciated by the cut-throat competition policy pursued by some of the makers. It is now possible to buy small crystals at 55s. per cwt., and we are not sure that even that price could not be shaded.

PHENACETIN still rules at 13s. to 14s. per lb. for the best-known brands, but there are now a good many manufacturers, and some of the newer ones offer at 12s. 6d. per lb.

PIMENTO has advanced. Sales were made at auction this week at 2¾d. to 2¾d. per lb. for ordinary to good clean, and since then further transactions have been reported at the higher price.

PRUSSIAN POTASH.—Yellow prussiate is very firm in price, and the manufacturers have plenty of orders on hand. The price for English brands is 10½d. to 10¾d. per lb.

QUICKSILVER has rallied somewhat from its recent depression. The chief importers quoted 6l. per bottle through the week, and showed no sign of willingness to accept less, while second-hand holders were firm at 5l. 17s. 6d.; but to-day the importers have also accepted 5l. 17s. 6d.

QUILLAIA.—A parcel of 14 bales sold cheaply to-day (subject to approval) at 12l. 15s. per ton.

QUININE.—Considerably higher, with an active and, at times, excited market. Between the closing of our last report and Wednesday morning some 30,000 ounces second-hand bulk changed hands at prices ranging from 10¾d. to 11d. per oz.; but when the extent of the stock in London became known, quotations quickly rose. The German manufacturers all advanced their price to 1s. 1d. per oz. for bulk, and to-day we hear that a good many sales have been made

at from 11*d.* to 11½*d.* per oz., which was refused late this afternoon, there being now only a few sellers of small quantities at 1*s.* per oz. For June delivery 25,000 oz. have been sold at 12½*d.* per oz. At auction 5,000 oz. of *B. & S.* quinine in 100-oz. tins were bought in at 1*s.* per oz., a bid of 11½*d.* being rejected. The stock figures will be found in our Editorial Comments. The price of *Howard's* brand has also been advanced 1*d.* per oz., vials being now quoted at 1*s.* 4*d.*

RHUBARB.—A fairly large supply was offered to-day and partly sold without restriction, the result being an all-round drop in price of ½*d.* to 1*d.* per lb. Of 186 cases 86 sold as follows:—*Shensi*: Small to bold fair coat round three-fourths pinky, one-fourth grey, 1*s.* 6*d.*; mixed sizes, partly dull coat, half pinky half grey round, 1*s.* 1½*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*; small to bold fair partly dark coat, three-fourths pinky one-fourth grey flat, 1*s.*; small to bold rather dull coat flat, three-fourths pinky one-fourth dark, 10½*d.* to 11½*d.*; ditto round, half pinky and half dark in fracture, 10½*d.* to 11*d.* per lb. *Canton*: Round, bold fair coat, half pinky, half grey, 1*s.* 1*d.*; medium to bold grey coat, three-fourths pinky, one-fourth grey flat, 1*s.* 1*d.*; small druggists' root, round, 11½*d.*; small flat root, fair coat, even pinky fracture, 1*s.* 0½*d.*; flat small to medium fair coat, three-fourths pinky, one-fourth dark, 11½*d.*; smaller ditto, round and flat mixed, 10½*d.* to 11*d.*; and round small to medium fair coat, three-fourths pinky, one-fourth dark, 9½*d.* per lb. *High-dried*: Small to medium flat fair coat, grey fracture, 1*s.*; small to bold ditto, fair pinky fracture, 1*s.*; smaller sizes, 11½*d.*; fair, rather horny, small to medium, half grey and half brown fracture, 6½*d.* to 7*d.* per lb.

SALOL.—The combination of German manufacturers which controls this article has reduced the price suddenly from 11*s.* 1*d.* to 8*s.* per lb. for 2-cwt. lots. Salol is now manufactured by several firms—in fact, by almost all those who make salicylic acid. As there is only a limited demand for the article, it is becoming increasingly difficult to hold the combination together, with the growing output, especially as even at the present prices must leave an excellent profit to the makers. Salol is not patented, excepting in the United States, where the original manufacturers have secured patent-rights, and where, therefore, in all probability the previous high price will be kept up.

SARSAPARILLA.—11 bales more or less damaged genuine grey *Jamaica* root sold to-day at from 1*s.* 3*d.* down to 1*s.* 1*d.* *Honduras* root is dull of sale; 21 serons were bought in at 1*s.* 3½*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*

SENEGA is lower, and can be had to-day in good quality at 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb.

SENNA.—*Tinnevely* leaves in small supply; 180 bales were offered, and nearly all sold at a slight advance in price, amounting to about ½*d.* on medium grades. Fine senna was not offered. Medium to good green leaf realised 4½*d.* to 5*d.*; small to medium yellowish to green, partly specky, from 3½*d.* down to 2*d.*; small, partly damaged and common, from 1½*d.* down to 1*d.*; and very common, from ¾*d.* down to ¼*d.* per lb.

SOY.—For 25 casks *China* Soy shown to-day 1*s.* 5*d.* per gallon is the price.

STAPHISAGRIA.—Very scarce. Privately, holders are asking 70*s.* per cwt.; but a 2½-cwt. lot is on the market at 60*s.* per cwt. A bid of 55*s.* is said to have been refused for it.

STAR-ANISE.—A quiet market. There are buyers to arrive at 70*s.* c.i.f. terms. At auction to-day 15 cases of genuine *China* were shown. They are held for 75*s.*

SUCCIRUBRA-BARK is reported dearer in Hamburg, where 1*s.*, c.i.f. terms, is now asked.

SULPHONAL.—Steady at 11*s.* 3*d.* per lb.

SULPHUR.—Sicilian flowers are quoted at 6*l.* 10*s.*, roll sulphur at 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Market receding.

TAMARINDS.—Forty barrels good *Barbadoes* imported three years ago sold cheaply at 12*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

TURMERIC.—Of *Madras* root 20 bags medium to bold yellow finger realised 27*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

VANILLA.—A fair supply at to-day's auctions sold well, at an advance of about 1*s.* on ordinary and medium grades,

and at full prices for long pods. The following prices were paid:—Good to fine, 6 to 7½ inches, 10*s.* to 14*s.*; fair crystallised, 4½ to 6½ inches, 8*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*; medium, 3 to 5½ inches, 4*s.* 3*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.*; ordinary brown and frayed, 3*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* per lb.

WAX (BEES').—In demand at higher prices. Of *East Indian* bees'-wax a few packages dull grey bleached Madras sold, at 6*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; good pale ditto Calcutta, at 7*l.* per cwt. Of *Madagascar* wax 293 packages were all sold, at a rise of about 2*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.: good brown to fine bright orange, 6*l.* 15*s.* to 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; medium, 6*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; and ordinary dark slaty, at 6*l.* 5*s.* to 6*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Twenty barrels *Jamaica* wax also sold at higher prices: fine bright red and orange, 7*l.* 15*s.* to 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; good red and brown, 7*l.* 10*s.* to 7*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; and ordinary dark, at 7*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

THE LIVERPOOL MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, January 30.

CANARY SEED.—The advance in this article has been steadily maintained, and holders are effecting sales at 46*s.* to 46*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.

GUINEA GRAINS.—One small lot sold ex quay at 19*s.*, but holders are again asking 25*s.* per cwt.

GUM ACACIA.—*Soudan* sorts are steadily held, and some little business has been done at prices ranging up to 56*s.* per cwt. for good white, but the demand is somewhat retail.

HONEY.—The lower grades of *Chilian* are in good demand and are fetching better prices.

OIL (CASTOR).—The market is still very weak, and holders are quoting form 2¼*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb. for good *Seconds Calcutta*. *French* oil is unchanged.

QUILLAIA is very firmly held at late rates.

SCAMMONY-ROOT.—Forty bales—a recent import—have been sold, at 27*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

WAX (BEES').—*Chilian* has been selling steadily, at 7*l.* to 7*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. for good grey to yellow.

THE SMYRNA OPIUM-MARKET.

(Telegram from our Correspondent.)

SMYRNA, Wednesday night.

THERE has been strong speculative buying this week, partly on account of the grave news from the growing districts concerning the condition of the winter sowings of opium. To-day our market closes at the rate of 10*s.* 2*d.* per lb. f.o.b. for tale quale opium, which shows an advance of 9*d.* per lb. since our telegram of January 17.

THE NEW YORK MARKET.

(Telegram from our Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Wednesday night.

THE market for *cascara sagrada* is firm, and a deal of about 25,000 lbs. of the drug is said to have taken place at the rate of \$5 50 per 100 lbs. New York terms. American oil of *peppermint* is decidedly lower. For some time past there has been little business in this article, and as there are no apparent prospects of improvement, \$2.90 per lb. would probably be accepted.

THE MEDICINE-STAMP LICENCE.—The Board of Inland Revenue prosecuted a chariot-vendor of patent medicines, named Ernest Leslie, at Durham, on Wednesday, and were defeated on a technical point. We shall give fuller particulars next week.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.

Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.

The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.

The Effects of Antipyrin.

SIR,—I can bear out the statement made by Mr. C. C. Bell in your issue of January 27, with reference to swelling of the face caused by antipyrin.

A short time ago a lady asked me for a draught for a headache, adding the request not to give her antipyrin as it did not agree with her. Thinking this was possibly fancy on her part I gave about a 5-gr. dose, with sal volatile, which she took, and left my pharmacy.

Next day she called and told me that I must have given her antipyrin, and, removing a wrap which concealed the lower part of her face, she displayed features barely recognisable, the lips blue and protruding, and breaking out in small pustules.

This, she said, was the second time she had suffered in a similar manner from the same cause.

Yours, &c.,

MANXMAN. (226/46.)

SIR,—Last summer a friend asked me one evening for a dose of antipyrin to relieve headache. I had long been accustomed to use this drug very carefully, and from what I knew of him I thought it advisable to give him only 5 grains, at first, and repeat it in half an hour on so. Within ten minutes his face was flushed and swollen, especially under the eyes, his voice was gone, and altogether he looked likely to collapse. I gave him a sharp stimulant and sent him home to bed. Next morning he was better, but the "puffiness" under the eyes and a certain huskiness in his voice did not disappear until three or four days later. I am yours, &c.,

Grantown-on-Spey, Jan. 30.

JAMES KERR.

Crystallisation of Water.

SIR,—The letters of Mr. Searl and the veteran, Mr. Wardropper, point out a well-known physical fact, but one, nevertheless, which is not entirely responsible for the formation of ice referred to in my previous letter. There was agitation of the water certainly, but while that in the basin became solid that remaining in the ewer retained its fluidity, so that it seems, as I said at first, that the few crystals in the hand-basin brought about the crystallisation of the entire body of water. Had I dropped a crystal of ice into the water in the ewer there is no doubt that it also would have been solidified. The phenomenon is on all-fours with the crystallisation of glacial acetic acid as instanced by Mr. Searl, and which may frequently be found to retain its fluidity at a temperature many degrees below its freezing-point, even after agitation, as in pouring from one vessel into another; but a crystal of the same is sufficient to bring about a solidification of the entire bulk of acid.

Yours truly,

Finsbury Park, N.,
January 23.

ALEXANDER GUNN.

Synthetic Remedies Stocked.

SIR,—On reading down the list of 120 new remedies I thought I recognised some I had read of a longer time ago than ten years, and on just turning to the index of *Nothnagel und Rossbach Arzneimitte U. kze*, edition 1884, I find the following:—Bromal hydrate (page 357), bromoform (357),

chinoline (653), ethylene chloride (357), eugenol (538), guaiacoll (465), hydrochinone (455), kairin (652), naphthalene (464), naphthol (465), paraldehyde (356), resorcin (459). Phenacetin, *Year-Book of Pharmacy*, 146, 1883, gallacetophenone (ditto), guaiacol (ditto). In order for these to be described, not merely chemically but therapeutically, they must have been known longer than ten years. I have not been asked for any except antipyrin, and of that I have sold 4 or 5 oz.

122 Lordship Lane, East Dulwich.

G. E. BURT.

We have received from subscribers lists of new remedies stocked, which contain the following, in addition to the substances named last week:—

Agathin	Euphorin
Alumol	Europhen
Amylene hydrate	Guaiacol carbonate
Aseptol	Hypnone
Benzosol	Hypnal
Chloral ammonium	Methyl violet
Chloralose	Orexine
Cresol	Pyridine
Dermatol	Solutol
Ethyl chloride	Thalline
Ethyl iodide	Thiol

This brings the list up to sixty-three. Of the above twenty-three fifteen are sent by a leading Dublin pharmacy where forty-four new remedies are stocked. We have also replies from Abersford, Birmingham, Carmarthen, Chesterfield, Colwyn Bay, Denbigh, Leicester, Grantown-on-Spey, Biarritz, Bournemouth, and Sheffield.

One of the largest wholesale firms in the country inform us that they stock the following synthetic remedies:—

Acetanilide	Methylyne blue
Antipyrin	Methyl violet
Aristol.	Naphthalene
Benzo-sol	Naphthol
Bromoform	Paraldehyde
Chloralamide	Phenacetin
Creolin	Phenocoll
Diuretin	Piperazin
Ethyl chloride	Pyridine
Europhen	Resorcin
Exalgin	Saccharin
Guaiacol	Salol
Homatropine	Sulphonol
Hydroquinone	Tetronal
Hypnal	Thalline
Ichthyol	Urethane
Iodol	

Besides these the firm have been asked for and obtained once (or at the most twice) the following:—

Benzonaphthol	Lysol
Betol	Methylene chloride
Bromal hydrate	Orexine
Chinoline	Salipyrin
Chloralose	Salophen
Guaiacol carbonate	Thiol
Hypnone	Thio-resorcin
Kairin	Trional

Pharmacy in Jersey.

SIR,—When a young man just out of his indentures and fresh with the honours of a minor degree poses as an authority and rushes into print it is generally a rather amusing exhibition, and I regret I must say there is no exception in the case of Mr. Geo. Le Scelleur and the curious pigeon-English which he inflicted on the readers of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST last week.

With few exceptions the traders in chemicals and drugs in Jersey are all chemists, trained from their youth to the business, and several of the unqualified men possess the confidence of the local practitioners to a much greater extent than others, who, in fancied superiority, cackle over being possessors of pharmaceutical certificates.

Mr. Le Scelleur says "he does not think he is mistaken

in saying that within recent years several cases of death have resulted from poisons sold indiscriminately by persons who have had no training whatever." But he is mistaken. The Poisons Act may have had a deterrent effect on murder, but never on suicide; and in the case of poisoning by cyanide of potassium that he quotes, as well as another by oxalic acid a year or two previous, the poisons were sold by well-known chemists, who although not bound to follow the Poisons Act had, as is generally done, complied with its provisions.

The reason of an unqualified majority of Jersey chemists is not due to incompetency on the part of that majority, who will compare more than favourably with the English chemists of 1868, but is owing to the fact that the insular laws, unfortunately, do not enforce the necessary degree.

Drafts of Bills for this purpose have been presented to the local Legislature for the last twenty years, but have always been sent back, or in native parlance, lodged *au greffe*, as not urgent. In face of this fact Mr. Le Scelleur's personal appeal, as if he was originating something new, sounds veridically ludicrous to those in the know, although if it could have the effect of waking public and legislative opinion in the matter it would be of some benefit.

Yours faithfully,
Jersey, January 27. A SUBSCRIBER. (225/36.)

SIR,—I should like to write a few lines in answer to your correspondent, Mr. Le Scelleur. I have no doubt all the chemists in Jersey are agreed as to the desirability of the States passing a Pharmacy Act, and I expect they are equally well agreed as to the improbability of such an event taking place. A Bill in regard to the registration of chemists was brought in some fifteen years ago, and, notwithstanding the fact that it was backed by several influential members of the States, it was lodged *au greffe*, or in plain English "shelved." It appears now that the States would not be willing to go further than to pass an Act relating to the sale of poisons, which would simply give a chemist additional responsibility but no protection. In the case of cyanide poisoning to which your correspondent alludes, the poison was sold by a registered chemist, and I believe that all chemists are equally careful in the sale of poisons; but, of course, while other traders are allowed to sell them *ad lib.* there is no protection for the public. With regard to the passed men here, I may say that two are Jersey men and four, including one assistant, are English. The others, by long practical experience, gained in many cases in London and other large centres, are quite worthy of, and do, as a matter of fact, possess, the full confidence of the public and of the medical men. The latest comer to Jersey must, I should think, have been established in business when your correspondent was in his apprenticeship, and many of them must have been in business when he was in his cradle. Whilst by no means wishing to depreciate the value of examination, I must contend that without sound practical knowledge theory is of little value. I have known freshly-passed young men who could not spread a plaster or make ointments say like *Ung. Zinci Oleatis* (Crocker).

Yours truly,
Jersey, Jan. 29. ONE INTERESTED. (226/71.)

Suggestion for a Licence.

SIR,—In the comic opera known as *The Vicar of Bray* a scene occurs in which a solicitor (Mr. Rowe) informs the vicar that the Court of Arches has deprived him of his benefice. The vicar retorts that "the Court of Arches has no power to do so"; to which Mr. Rowe blandly replies, "But, my dear sir, the Court of Arches has done it." The action of magistrates in granting wine-licences to chemists on condition that they will only sell medicated wines is on all-fours with the foregoing little comedy. It is a well-known fact that licences have been thus conditionally granted, and the suggestion of "M. Vinum" is one well worthy of consideration. This is a subject that might profitably be discussed by the newly formed Federation of Local Associations.

Yours, &c.,
ROHAM. (225/63.)
[We challenge this statement. Magistrates have never

granted licences for the sale of medicated wines only, for the simple reason that there are no such licences known to the Revenue.—ED. C. & D.]

The Minor Examination.

SIR,—In all probability many who have gone through the mill of the Pharmaceutical Society, and whose great opinions of themselves have not met with that amount of acknowledgement which they thought due to them, will sympathise with "Omnia." But is it beneficial? Many in the heat of disappointment magnify small things and diminish large ones. Thoughtless and imprudent writing may (and often does) spoil the temper of those with whom we must afterwards come in contact. What was the result of the correspondence in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* concerning the time allowed to candidates at the July examination? This—that the examiners became much more punctual in concluding only in October. I have experienced something akin to the above, and have gone through these same mills, and although I cannot coincide with "Omnia's" views, I sympathise with him in his misfortune.

But his is not an isolated case. There are many, educated in the best schools of pharmacy, who fail even the third time—some I know have done so, and each time in a subject which they had previously passed. To be honest, there is a lack of perseverance and self-reliance rather than that the examination is difficult. When I failed I was sorely hurt, as I happened to do so in the subject which I considered my best. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed" became very forcibly applicable afterwards. The second time I almost failed in those subjects in which on my first attempt I had scored the best. If a candidate fail in a subject which he has previously passed, there is proof enough that there is either neglect or deficiency. Two men may have papers equally easy which, if exchanged, become equally difficult. That the examination is unfair cannot be gainsaid, but in itself it is as fairly conducted as can possibly be, and consequently requires no alteration in that respect.

As to the time between the practical and theoretical examinations, this calls for great reform. It is nothing short of cruelty in two ways—the tension of the mind and the strain on the pocket. A great many more fail on the second than on the first day. If the days were consecutive, the *coup de grace* would be much better received than it is now—protracted, or suspended as it were, for a week or ten days. Moreover, it is not every candidate who has a father a chemist in business or a millionaire. When I emerged successfully from the *mêlée*, and had paid all expenses, the amount of my solid cash was something short of 6s.

Respectfully yours,
AN ASSISTANT. (225/25.)

LEGAL QUERIES.

Immediate information on pharmaco-legal matters is available in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty," and *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*

223/34. *Veritas*.—Butyl chloral is not a scheduled poison. To register a trade-mark see page 185 of *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, 1894.

219/39. *Dispenser* states that a number of local friendly societies have amalgamated, and employ several doctors and dispensers. The committee buys all drugs, and they are dispensed only to members on the prescriptions of the medical officers. Nothing is sold for cash except cod-liver oil, and that only to members, and at cost price. Are the scales, weights, and measures used in this institution subject to inspection?

[Section 2 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1889, says:—"Every person who, after the expiration of twelve months from the commencement of this Act, uses, or has in his possession for use, for trade, any weighing-instrument not stamped as required by this Act, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two pounds, or in the case of a second offence five

pounds." Section 24 of the principal Act of 1878 is practically to the same effect, and includes weights and measures. We should say that under the circumstances the Society were carrying on a trade, although the case is open to considerable doubt. The only way of testing the case is, if the inspector of weights and measures takes proceedings, to ask for a case to be stated for the opinion of the Queen's Bench Division.]

225/51. *Q. E. D.*—It is quite legal for an individual or a firm to style himself or themselves "The Al Mineral-water Company," without being registered under the Companies Act.

226/33. *Midlands.*—If you cannot otherwise get the blocks from the printer, you can sue him in the county court for the value of them.

226/45. *Leo* asks Are proprietary pills containing $\frac{1}{2}$ of a drop of ol. sabinæ poisons according to law. We say yes. If you sell those pills you are selling oil of savin. It is possible to argue, however, that the schedule does not name preparations of savin, and that, therefore, the pills are not subject to the Act.

226/44. *Inquirer.*—A medical man who sells a medicine containing poison is subject to the regulations of the Pharmacy Act, just the same as a chemist and druggist. He might argue that he does not sell the medicine he sends out to his patients; but we do not think he would convince a court that he does not.

Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons lately asked the Board of Inland Revenue whether, seeing that ordinary postage stamps are described as "Postage and Revenue," it is permissible to affix $1\frac{1}{2}d$ (postage and revenue) stamps to packages of proprietary medicines, provided such stamps are cancelled previous to sale. The reply was that, as appropriate stamps are provided for medicines, the ordinary "postage and revenue stamps" cannot be used.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

The Editor replies to queries of general interest, in the order in which they are received. Replies are inserted according to the space available. Postal answers cannot be supplied.

Back numbers containing formulae, educational or other specific information can be obtained from the Publisher.

211/46. *Ucæ passæ.*—We have not the formula, nor has it been published to our knowledge.

212/59. *Fita.*—Cocamaniaes are generally put under medical restraint. We do not think that there is any book published on the subject, but shall inquire. We consider that the chemist who would sell cocaine to a person under its influence would be acting contrary to the spirit of his qualification as one entrusted with the sale of poisons.

212/48. *Sawon.*—Bitter tonics—best of all strychnine—are the most satisfactory cures for the Drink Habit. This fact is recognised in most of the cures offered for sale. Your latter questions are invidious; but we may say generally that no drink-cure is successful which is not accompanied by moral supervision. You cannot cure a drunkard by leaving him to himself, or getting him to bring all the moral force remaining in him to favour the cure. Most of the cures rely very strongly upon the latter; but it is the medicine which they sell.

212/27. *Chirop.*—What is it that Chiropodists use for painting on corns before extracting them? We do not know. Can anyone tell us?

113/15, *Hecla*, and 208/37, *J. J.* write about Neuralgia-mixtures, and enclose formulae. Two of these seem very suitable, and with some slight modifications we give them here, and add two others which are said to be useful:—

Pot. bromid.	gr. x.
Quin. sulph.	gr. ij.
Ac. hydrobrom. dil.	℥v.
Butyl-chloral. hydrat.	gr. ij.
Aq. chloroform. ad	℥ss.

Every two hours.

Ammon. chloridi	gr. v.
Ferri et quin. cit.	gr. ij.
Tinct. aconiti	℥i.
Tinct. gelsemii	℥v.
Aq. cinnamomi ad	℥ss.

Every two hours.

Succi conii	℥xv.
Succi hyoseyami	℥xv.
Liq. strychnin. hyd.	℥ij.
Syrup. rhæados	℥j.
Aq. menth. pip. ad	℥ss.

Every three hours.

Antipyrin	gr. v.
Caffeine	gr. j.
Tinct. gelsemii	℥v.
Tinct. card. co.	℥ss.
Aq. aurantii flor. ad	℥ss.

Every three hours.

227/22. *H. A. W.*—Your horse-breaker customer may mean by Oil of Salmon essential oil of almonds or oil of savin. We should think the former.

191/293. *G. A. H.* sends us a powder which is supposed to Prevent Windows Steaming. It is a greyish crystalline powder, which, on examination, we find to consist mainly of carbonate of soda.

213/8. *Maranta.*—We cannot give you the exact composition of the Anodyne Draught for Horses, &c. As far as we have gone it seems to consist chiefly of sour ale and opium, but we shall look into the matter further.

213/23. *S. G.* (Glasgow) sends us a sample of a Sarsaparilla Drink that is largely used in Glasgow, about an ounce of it goes with a teaspoonful of sherbet to make an effervescent drink. We think the following will produce an article like it:—

Tartaric acid	℥ss.
Salicylic acid	℥ss.
Oil of bergamot	℥x.
Rectified spirit	℥ss.
Conc. comp. decoction of sarsaparilla	℥v.
Conc. infusion of gentian	℥ij.
Conc. comp. infusion of orange	℥ij.
Caramel	a sufficiency
Sugar	lb ij.
Water to	1 gallon

Dissolve the sugar in half a gallon of water, also the oil and salicylic acid, and add the solution to the mixed concentrations. Mix with the syrup, and add the caramel and tartaric acid, previously dissolved in enough water to make a gallon.

213/13. *Theine.*—(1) Spt. Æther. Dule. P.L. '850 can be accurately prepared from solution of hyponitrous ether by dilution with spirit; but it will be necessary for you to determine the strength of the solution, and then dilute it to about 1 per cent. of EtNO₂ with spirit sp. gr. 0.845. (2) See the DIARY for parasitic hair-lotions (page 366). (3) There is no way that we are aware of for making Lin. Ammonia strictly B.P., which will "always remain of an equal consistence." That is contrary to the nature of the prepara-

tion. The following modification answers well, however, and keeps fluid for a long time:—

	Oz.
Olive oil	6
Solution of ammonia	2
Shake well, and add—	
Solution of ammonia	1
Again shake.	

217/32. *C. H.*—The Harness-paste may be made as follows:—

Prussian blue	1 oz.
Lamp black	2 oz.
Fat or lard	oz.
Paraffin	1½ oz.
Turpentine	3v.

Melt the last three together at a gentle heat, and mix with the powders, stirring constantly until cold.

210/37. *Wigan.*—Walnut-varnish:—

Shellac	1½ lb.
Bismarck brown B.	1 oz.
Nigrosine	½ "
Spirit	1 gallon

Common Oak-varnish:—

Common resin	3½ lbs.
Turpentine	1 gal.

Heat until dissolved.

Colour with Brunswick black.

223/15. *Wutugt.*—We should not admit such correspondence.

213/69. *Inquirer.*—Convalescent homes are generally treated like hospitals in the supply of medicine. You may either give a discount of 20 to 30 per cent. off your retail prices, or put the home on doctors' terms as quoted in the *DIARY*, page 362. Much depends upon the nature of the home in the charitable aspect. There your heart must largely fix your charges.

213/44. *Caput.*—Paraffin for the Hair is the purest—i.e., crystal-white illuminating petroleum oil. It was with this that the celebrated crop of hair was produced on the bald head of a man some years ago. He thought the bald spot was the best place to wipe his paraffin fingers on, and the dirty habit was rewarded in the fashion indicated. "What should be the price for an 8-oz. bottle?" We know 4 oz. to be charged 1s. Let that and your conscience guide you.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

For this section we are always glad to receive from subscribers brief notes on practical subjects, recipes which have been found good in practice or which have required modification, and hints or fresh ideas on any pharmaceutical or trade matter.

Boric Acid is in common request in Lancashire for use on ball-room floors. VERITAS. (225/4.)

French-polish Reviver.—You published a formula a few weeks ago containing gum and spirit. Two of my customers—cabinet-makers—deprecate the use of spirit, as it tends to "rub up" the original polish and leave dull places. Vinegar, oil, and antimony do everything that is necessary. Gum I should take to be objectionable. VERITAS. (225/4.)

INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor invites, on behalf of inquiring subscribers, post-card replies to the following:—

220/15. Polarite: who are the makers?

223/34. What is Brock's mineral?

NEW BOOKS.

The following new books of interest to readers of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* have been published recently. [Mention of a publication in this list does not preclude a subsequent literary notice of the book in another part of the journal.]

Glazebrook, R. T. *Heat: An Elementary Text-book.* Post 8vo. Pp. 240 3s. (Cambridge Warehouse.)

Gondall, E.—*The Microscopical Examination of the Human Brain. Methods for the Preparation of the Brain for Museum-purposes.* Post 8vo. Pp. 183. 5s. (Baillière & Co.)

Hart, F.—*Western Australia in 1893.* 8vo. Sewed. 2s. (Stanford.)

Murrell, W.—*Aids to Forensic Medicine and Toxicology.* New and revised edition. 12mo. Pp. 114. 2s. (Baillière.)

Vine, G.—*Home-made Wines: How to Make and Keep Them.* New edition. 12mo. Pp. 48. 1s. (Drane.)

Next Week.

Meetings, &c., to be held, and business to be transacted thereat. Suitable notices will be inserted in this section if received by the Editor on or before Wednesday.

MONDAY, February 5.—*Society of Chemical Industry, Chemical Society's Rooms, Burlington House, at 8 P.M.* (1) "Note on an Interesting Explosion Caused by Sodium Peroxide," by Dr. A. Dupré. (2) "Theory of Dyeing: Part 1., Ingrain Colours," by Mr. P. W. Dreaper.

MONDAY, February 5.—*Imperial Institute, at 8.30 P.M.* Illustrated lecture: "Our New Highway to the Orient, across the Mountains, Prairies, and Rivers of Canada," by Mr. J. E. Muddock, F.R.G.S.

MONDAY, February 5.—*Society of Arts, at 8 P.M.* Professor Clowes on "The Detection and Measurement of Inflammable Gas and Vapour in the Air."

MONDAY, February 5.—*Royal Institution of Great Britain at 5 o'clock.* General monthly meeting.

TUESDAY, February 6.—*Royal Institution of Great Britain, at 3 P.M.* Professor Charles Stewart on "Locomotion and Fixation in Plants and Animals."

WEDNESDAY, February 7.—*Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society, at 8.30 P.M.* Mr. C. O. Morrison on "A Question of Pharmaceutical Politics."

WEDNESDAY, February 7.—*Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy, at 9 P.M.* Discussion on the proposed code of ethics.

WEDNESDAY, February 7.—*Society of Arts, at 8 P.M.* "Automatic Balance of Reciprocating Machinery, and Prevention of Vibration," by W. Worby Beaumont. Sir Frederick Bramwell, Bart., D.C.L., F.R.S., Deputy-Chairman of the Council, will preside.

THURSDAY, February 8.—*Imperial Institute, at 4.30 P.M.* "Telegraphic Communication between England and India: its Present Condition and Future Development," by Mr. E. O. Walker, C.I.E., formerly of the Government of India Telegraph Department.

THURSDAY, February 8.—*Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., at 8.30.* Mr. H. T. Durrant on "Solution."

THURSDAY, February 8.—*Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society, at 8.30 P.M.* Miss E. M. Wood on "Parasitic Plants."

THURSDAY, February 8.—*Midland Pharmaceutical Association.* Smoking concert at the Colonnade Hotel, New Street, Birmingham. Chair to be taken at 8.30.

THURSDAY, February 8.—*Royal Institution of Great Britain, at 3 P.M.* Mr. W. Martin Conway on "The Past and Future of Mountain Exploration."

FRIDAY, February 9.—*Royal Institution of Great Britain, at 9 o'clock.* Professor W. F. R. Weldon, F.R.S., on "Fortuitous Variation in Animals."

SATURDAY, February 10.—*Royal Institution of Great Britain, at 3 P.M.* Lord Rayleigh on "Light; with special reference to the Optical Discoveries of Newton."